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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7774

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 26, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS



Two Azeri volunteers take cover behind sandbags as they wait for a possible attack from Armenian militants in the border village of Adzhikent. (Reuters wirephoto)

Farwaniya rally foiled, 5 held

KUWAIT, Jan 22, (Kuna): Security men today dispersed a crowd of people who tried to stage an unauthorised public rally in Al Farwaniya at the Diwaniya of one of the area's citizens, an Interior Ministry source said tonight.

As the crowd assembled at 7 pm Interior Ministry officials issued several warnings for people to disperse but the warnings went unheeded.

"This prompted the security authorities to disperse them and handle the situation," the source said.

Five people were arrested "when they tried to resist security men and prevent them from doing their job," he added.

One of the five detainees carried a knife and used it in attacking security men, the source said, adding that the authorities immediately began to interrogate the five.

"The Interior Ministry, while thanking citizens who co-operated with it, reaffirms that it will always work for maintaining law and order..." the source concluded.

Muslims threaten human tidal wave

State, Fed police clash in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Jan 22, (Agencies): Muslims threatened today to defy a ceasefire line separating India and Pakistan and flood Indian-held Kashmir to support their secessionist brethren.

Abdul Qayyum, President of Pakistan's Azad Kashmir state, told a news conference that more deaths in Indian-held Kashmir could spark a human tidal wave across the porous 840-mile (1,400-kilometre) border.

Qayyum said people fleeing the violence, particularly in Srinagar, are taking refuge in mosques.

"It's a sorry state of affairs," he said.

He evoked visions of hundreds of Kashmiris slipping across the ceasefire line seeking refuge in Pakistan. But he warned that Pakistan's 12 million Kashmiris would respond with a march on the Indian-controlled side.

Qayyum recalled a four-month mayhem on the ceasefire line in 1984, which was eventually put down by Pakistan's military. But he said emotions are higher now, and questioned whether Pakistani soldiers patrolling the ceasefire line would open fire on unarmed demonstrators.

In Srinagar, simmering tensions between officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police and the Federal Paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) ignited in a shooting, official sources said.

The sources said one state officer and a bystander was killed. They were unable to say what immediately prompted the clash in the Shaheed Gunt locality.

However, many members of the state's overwhelmingly Muslim police forces sympathise with secession demands and have been growing more resentful of the Hindu-dominated federal government contingents, especially because of their alleged excesses against Kashmiris.

Muslims snipers to Srinagar fired at Indian troops and bands of militants defied a curfew to hurl stones at soldiers today.

In a virtual mutiny, about 500 armed state policemen were refusing orders to continue the crackdown. The policemen, most of whom are Muslims, were holed up inside a police complex. The army and the paramilitary forces are mostly Hindu, the predominant religion in India.

"The whole city is up in revolt," Srinagar Police Inspector General Mohammad Noman said.

At least 300 Muslim protesters demanding independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan were injured today when troops fired on a mob of about 5,000 people in a suburb of Srinagar, according to doctors treating the wounded.

One paramilitary policeman was killed by a Muslim sniper and one Muslim protester was shot to death by a team of snipers, Noman said. He said 38 other people, most or all of them militants, had died since the trouble started shortly before midnight on Saturday.

The Islamic militants had marched out of homes and mosques today in (Continued on Page 2)

Bear to pay: Azeris to split if ...

Soviets seal border 'Hezbollah waits'

MOSCOW, Jan 22, (AP): Factory whistles wailed in mourning and hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Baku today to bury countrymen killed when Soviet troops stormed the city to quell a nationalist uprising, witnesses said.

Azerbaijani militants called a strike to protest the assault, and a source said the republic's legislature would consider seceding if federal troops were not withdrawn.

But there were signs today the ethnic bloodshed might be coming to a close.

The Soviet news agency Tass said high-ranking Armenian and Azerbaijani Communist Party and government officials, meeting in the Armenian town of Yeraskh, agreed to withdraw armed groups from areas along the border between their two republics, end shoot-outs and clashes, restore damaged communications lines and resume railway traffic.

The Azerbaijani parliament threatened today to break with Moscow if the Kremlin did not suspend a state of emergency in the region and pull out its troops.

Across the republic angry crowds protested against Soviet power, burning communist party cards and destroying monuments to state founder Vladimir Lenin.

An independent journalist in Baku told Reuters the Azerbaijani parliament, or Supreme Soviet, had invoked a recent local law giving it the notional power to suspend any law passed by Moscow and declared Moscow's state of emergency order void.

"They have voted to suspend the state of emergency and to consider a referendum on secession if their demands are not met," said Nazim Ragimov.

"The decision of the Supreme Soviet labels the Kremlin's move as a crime against the Azerbaijani people," said Nadezhda Nadezhav, of the powerful Popular Front nationalist movement.

Ragimov said the lawmakers were prepared to give Moscow up to 48 hours to begin pulling out the troops sent in last week to quell ethnic violence and smash a nationalist revolt.

But a journalist with the official Azerbaijan news agency said the parliament could start discussion of a referendum as soon as Tuesday.

Azerbaijani told Reuters the crowd mourning the city's dead swelled to about one million out of a population of 1.7 million, bringing the entire port city to a standstill.

Black banners draped buildings, factory sirens howled, car horns blared and women wailed and tore their hair and clothing in traditional mourning as the bodies of at least 60 "martyrs," as the Azeris are calling them, were carried on biers to the burial ground in the Muslim fashion.

They were buried in a common grave in a hillside park overlooking Baku, the Soviet Union's fourth biggest city which has survived 1,000 years of turmoil.

'Mayor filmed having sex' Barry leaves DC

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (Reuters): The mayor of Washington, Marion Barry, arrested last week on charges of cocaine use and possession in an undercover operation by federal agents, has left the US capital for substance-abuse treatment, the city's acting mayor announced today.

A local television station reported, Barry was filmed having sex with a fashion model.

The CBS-affiliated station said yesterday police videotaped Barry, a former black civil rights leader, having sex with Rasheeda Moore in a Washington hotel room before both smoked cocaine supplied by a second woman, a federal agent.

(See earlier report Page 4)

Reds back off in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Jan 22, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's Communist Party today renounced its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power after 45 years of unchallenged rule and decided to permit the creation of a multi-party system.

"The League of Communists (the party) renounces its constitutionally guaranteed leading role in society," said Momir Bulatovic, Communist Party chief of the republic of Montenegro and chairman of a plenary session at the party's congress.

"(The party) proposes to the Yugoslav Parliament that it pass a law on political pluralism including a multi-party system," he said.

(Earlier report Page 7)

Water dispute falls to Kuwait

KUWAIT, Jan 22, (AP): Kuwait announced today it will mediate between Iraq and Turkey over the Euphrates issue after Turkey diverted much of the river's water for a month to fill its giant Ataturk dam.

"Kuwait will establish contacts and good offices with the Turkish government in a bid to end its dispute with Iraq over the Euphrates River," said Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

He did not mention any mediation between Turkey and Syria, which also has expressed concerns about the cutoff of the river that flows through its territory.

Sheikh Sabah stopped short of saying when his government will be taking up the issue or whether the mediation would be conducted within the framework of the 46-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Kuwait is the current chairman of the OIC, and has been mediating in this capacity between Turkey and Bulgaria over the issue of the ethnic Muslim Turks in Bulgaria.

Sheikh Sabah told the reporters that he received a message related to the Euphrates water issue earlier in the day from his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz.

He said that the message also dealt with the Soviet initiative envisaging a direct meeting in Moscow between the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers to open negotiations for a formal peace pact between the two northern Gulf powers who fought an eight-year war.

On Jan 13, Turkey diverted much of the water of the Euphrates to fill the reservoir of the giant Ataturk dam.

The Turks have maintained one month is the minimum time required for filling the reservoir of the \$4-billion project, the centerpiece of a massive hydroelectric and irrigation network.



Going along

LONDON, (UPI): Princess Anne may divorce her husband Mark Phillips, but Queen Elizabeth II will not allow her daughter to remarry because she would conflict with her principles as leader of the Church of England, newspapers reported Monday, but Princess Anne denied the reports (Details - Page 5)

India sues AB Bofors

Corruption case

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 22: The government today filed preliminary charges against the Swedish arms manufacturer A.B. Bofors, accusing the company of cheating India out of \$50 million dollars in a 1986 arms deal.

Investigators said former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi would be among those questioned.

The first information report (FIR), has listed 14 accused persons and "others," including former AB Bofors president Martin Arbo, Win Chadda of the Anatron General Corporation and the London-based industrialist G.P. Hinduja. Other accused persons are not identified by name and are only referred to as directors and beneficiaries of certain companies, including Bofors, Anatron, Svenska, Pico/Moresco/Moise SA of Switzerland and the A.E. Services of the United Kingdom.

These are companies to which payments have been admittedly made by Bofors, totalling all to more than 319.4m Swedish kroner (SEK), that is about

rupees 64 crores at the then prevailing exchange rates.

Bofors was one of the major issues on which Prime Minister V.P. Singh swept to power last November and he had promised to reveal the names of the recipients of the commission paid in the deal within 15 days of assuming office. While that deadline has long passed, Singh said efforts to identify the recipients would continue. The government has already barred Bofors from all future contracts in India in a bid to mount pressure on it to reveal the names.

Two days ago, a government spokesman said it was more interested in finding out who got the money than in recovering the amount involved from Bofors. The Swedish company had reportedly agreed last November to reimburse to the Indian government the Rs.64 crores said to have been paid as commission.

In a rather unusual step, the filing of the FIR was announced by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director Rajendra Shekhar himself at a crowded press conference. The FIR in a criminal case is only a launching

(Continued on Page 2)

28 killed as Indians, Tigers clash

COLOMBO, Jan 22, (AP): Indian troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas clashed in a village in the northern Jaffna peninsula, and the two sides reported today that as many as 28 people were killed.

An Indian diplomat said eight Indian soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in yesterday's firefight. He claimed there were heavy casualties among the guerrillas but gave no numbers.

The Tigers issued a statement claiming the Indian troops killed 20 Tamil civilians and destroyed at least 100 houses in an attempt to eliminate Tiger supporters. The Indian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied the Tigers' accusation. (See Page 2)

Weather

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State of sea: Moderate

High water: 11.30 am, 8.15 pm

Low water: 4.26 am, 2.31 pm

Sunrise: 6.42 am

Sunset: 5.18 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 6°C 43°F

Ahmad: 9°C 48°F

Falaka: 9°C 48°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmad: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 54 per cent

Ahmad: 73 per cent

Falaka: 74 per cent

Iran, China in arms pact

NICOSIA, Jan 22, (AP): Iran and China today signed a 10-year agreement for scientific co-operation and the transfer of military technology, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast said the accord was signed in Tehran by Defence Minister Akbar Torkan and a visiting Chinese official. It gave no details.

The radio identified the Chinese official as the deputy head of China's Science and Technology Council, but it did not name him.

The Chinese official met with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani earlier yesterday, the radio said.

China was Iran's largest arms supplier during the eight-year war with Iraq which was halted in August 1988 by a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire.



Barry wipes his face as he talks to reporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

8 Indians die in clash with Tigers

COLOMBO, Jan 22, (Agencies): Eight Indian soldiers and several Tamil rebels were killed in fierce battles at the weekend in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, Indian diplomats said today.

A spokesman for the Indian High Commission (Embassy) said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked troops with rockets and heavy firearms yesterday from houses in a

heavily-populated area.

A rebel account of the clashes alleged the Tigers were attacked by rival Tamils backed by Indian forces and that several civilians were killed in the fighting.

Indian troops had imposed a curfew at the scene of the fighting at Ariyalai, 16 km (10 miles) from Jaffna city, Sri Lankan military sources said.

The Indian spokesman said eight sol-

diers were killed and 10 wounded in the battles. Several militants also died, he said, adding: "The IPKF exercised a lot of restraint in order not to cause civilian casualties."

A Tiger's statement said the clashes started when the rival Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) backed by Indian troops moved into Tiger positions on a "search and destroy" mis-

sion.

The attackers arrived in armoured vehicles under air cover from Indian helicopters firing rockets, the rebels said.

"Five Indian helicopters were damaged and several jeeps were destroyed. The Indian and puppet troops suffered heavy casualties," they said. Detailed casualty figures were not immediately available, they added.

FIR lists 14 accused persons

India sues Bofors

(Continued from Page 1)

pad from which investigations commenced. No Indian official has been named as accused in the FIR for lack of evidence at this stage.

The controversial case, in which fingers were pointed at Gandhi himself, relates to the contract entered into by the Indian government with Bofors on March 24, 1986, for the sup-

ply of 410 155 mm field howitzer 77-B guns at a cost of SEK 8410.66 million, equivalent to Rs.1437.3 crores.

Shekhar told reporters today that it was only last month, after the new government took over the CBI was allowed access to classified documents that provided vital information in preparing a prima facie case. The CBI had earlier launched a

preliminary enquiry which had the limited purpose of ascertaining whether any income tax laws had been violated.

Shekhar said the CBI inquiry would, among other aspects, go into the question of why former prime minister Rajiv had not initiated action against Bofors to force it to name the recipients of the commission, though this course had been recommended to him by his defence minister, attorney general and army chief.

He said the filing of the FIR fulfilled the principle of dual criminality and he expected the Swiss authorities to co-operate in the investigations. The CBI also hopes to rope in the help of Interpol in this regard.

During the negotiations for the Bofors contract, the policy of the Indian government was that no agent or middleman should be involved in the deal.

The FIR alleges that though Bofors had full knowledge regarding this policy from May, 1984, itself, it not only persisted with the agencies of Svenska Inc, Pitco/Moresco/Moinesao SA and Anatron General Corporation, but also engaged a new agent, AE Services Limited by an agreement dated 15th November 1985. It is further alleged that Bofors had paid over SEK 319.40 million (Rs.64 crores) to the agents as "commission" and described as such in the records of Bofors and in bank documents.

This amount was remitted by Bofors between May 1986 and March 1987 to a number of Swiss accounts including code named accounts of Lotus, Tulip and Mont Blanc, indicating three different beneficiaries.

In at least four instances, Bofors had instructed the banks in Switzerland that the name of Bofors should not be shown in the bank records the remitter of the amounts. Bofors had made remittances of 18,398,806 Swedish kroners to Svenska Inc to a Swiss bank on 30 May 1986.

This single remittance was credited in Switzerland in four currencies, namely US dollars, Swiss franc, French franc and European Currency Unit in the ratio 60 per cent, 15 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. This indicates that there were four different beneficiaries.

The FIR highlights this undue secrecy and usual credit pattern which the CBI feels are indicative of clandestine dealings.

The FIR further states that after the allegation of bribery was made by the Swedish state radio in its broadcast on April 16 1987 the persons involved in the conspiracy set in motion various cover up operations.

Little victims of terrorism

Ghastly memories

PANCHKULA, India, Jan 22, (AP): Little Sohan Lal pulled a wet thumb out of his mouth and whispered: "My father died 200 years ago."

Pulling aside a startled visitor, M.L. Sharma, the nine-year-old boy's caretaker, explained: "Don't mind him, he is mentally imbalanced. He has been like that since his father was killed before his eyes by terrorists last year."

Sohan is one of 44 boys at the Sri Jainendra Gurukul High School's hostel whose father or both parents were killed by Sikh militants in the northern state of Punjab during the last two years. Extremists members of the Sikh faith have been fighting since 1982 to create a separate homeland in the rich farming state. They have killed more than 7,000 people, often by bursting into houses in the middle of the night and gunning down entire families or killing the men in front of their wives and children.

Initially, most of the victims were Hindus, who make up 82 per cent of India's nation-wide population of 880 million but are slightly outnumbered by Sikhs in Punjab state. In the last few years, the extremists have also targeted fellow Sikhs who do not support the separatist cause.

The frail, three-foot tall Sohan, whose father was killed last May and whose mother does not earn to take care of him, arrived at the hostel six months ago. He was placed in a first-grade class because he was too traumatised to do the schoolwork of boys his own age, Sharma said.

Authorities at the school in Panchkula, just outside the Punjab state capital Chandigarh, use their own funds to pay for the 44 boys' education, clothing and hostel fees, school manager B.R. Bahbar said.

He said the school began taking in the destitute boys, whose ages range from 6 to 14, in 1987 under a programme organised by a volunteer group that helps the children of extremist victims.

The group, known as Peedit Seva Prakash Samiti, or victims rehabilitation organisation, is run by a Hindu fundamentalist body, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The organisation has helped 2,000 children, including several Sikh children, its official said.

All the boys are Hindus at the hostel, which does not have quarters for girls.

Bahbar said there has been no conscious attempts to keep away Sikh children, but Sikhs usually don't want to entrust their children to a Hindu organisation.

"We have never allowed the boys to feel they are orphans," he said.

"When they came here first, they used to weep pathetically, but soon they adjusted to the new environment," he said. "All of them except Sohan."

"But who knows, there might be hundreds of other Sohans in Punjab," Sharma said, tugging his frayed baret.

Sohan's friend Deepak Mohan, who is in the fourth grade, said he saw his mother shot to death by Sikh extremists 18 months ago. He said his father was killed the same day by the radicals.

"Sometimes I weep when I remember them. But I don't think of them often. What is the use?" he said.

"If I meet those terrorists, I will shoot them," he said, wiping his large brown eyes with a clenched fist.

Like many of the orphans, he wants to be a soldier when he grows up.

Prakash Samiti sponsors about 2,000 children whose fathers were killed in the Sikh quest for a homeland. Except for the boys at the hostel, these little victims live with their widowed mothers or other relatives, who receive money to help raise the children.

The Hindu charity raises money by asking families or institutions to donate 1,000 rupees (58 dollars) a year to bring up one destitute child — Hindu or Sikh — whose parents died in the Punjab violence.

"We call it adopting by the family, even though the children continue to live with the surviving parent," said Sansarchand Gupta, who works for Prakash Samiti in Chandigarh.



Muslim congregation

Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad offered prayers yesterday with nearly one million Muslims from around the world at an annual gathering to pray for Islamic brotherhood and world peace.

Readings from the Holy Quran and other Islamic books blared over loudspeakers as the three-day Biswa Ejlama ended on the banks of the Turag River, 11 miles (17 km) north of Dhaka.

The Ejlama is the largest Muslim congregation.

after the haj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

After the final prayers hundreds of police struggled to control traffic as thousands of buses and trains (picture) crammed with pilgrims from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Africa, left the river bank site.

Thousands more, carrying rugs, cooking stoves and water pots began the long trudge home. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kashmir violence

(Continued from Page 1)

at least three sections of Srinagar, the predominantly Muslim city at the centre of the unrest. They confronted government troops who were ordered to keep everyone off the streets.

The doctors, speaking on condition of anonymity, said today all beds at the Soora Hospital were occupied and cafeteria had been converted into a makeshift hospital. The state government appealed to its employees to donate blood to save the lives of the critically injured.

In Srinagar's police mutiny, state constabulary policeman Mohammad Aslam claimed that a comrade was killed by army fire and that soldiers refused to hand over his body to the state police.

The ensuing confrontation snowballed. About 500 armed policemen were seen taking up positions in residential quarters of the police control room and refusing to report for curfew duty.

Aslam claimed the army and the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) wanted to disarm the state policemen.

In New Delhi, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh and other officials during a visit that had been scheduled before the latest Kashmir trouble.

Ershad renews fair polls pledge

Appeasing opposition

DHAKA, Jan 22, (Reuters): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has reassured Bangladeshis ahead of March rural elections that all future polls will be free and honest.

He repeated the pledge at a massive public rally in Chittagong port city yesterday, trying to appease opposition groups who are urging people to vote in the polls, due from March 4.

Ershad's opponents accused him of clinging to power through a fraudulent parliamentary election in 1988 and seeking to strengthen his ruling Jatiya Party through unfair rural polls.

In 1988 Jatiya Party won a sweeping two-thirds majority in the polls which all major opposition parties boycotted. Independent observers said only a few voters turned up to cast their ballot.

"All (future) elections will be free, fair and impartial," the official BSS news agency quoted Ershad as telling "hundreds of

thousands" of people yesterday. He said an opposition campaign of strikes and violence had failed to dislodge his government and asked his opponents to seek a mandate in the elections.

"Political parties must have realised that people had rejected politics of hartals (strikes) and violence... which only cause untold sufferings to the poor."

A parliamentary election is not due until 1993. But the March elections to the country's 460 rural sub-districts are widely seen as a prelude to an early poll.

The rural elections are fought on a non-party basis but opposition groups field their members as independent candidates to prepare a base for national elections.

More than 150 people were killed in violence during the rural polls two years ago but the government decided to spread the coming polls over weeks so police could keep a tighter grip, officials said.

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'Keep house in order' report denied

Cory urges co-operation

MANILA, Jan 22, (AP): President Corason Aquino said today co-operation between soldiers and civilians was the best way to prevent a new coup and hristed at suggestions she needed to improve her government's performance.

"I call on our people to reach out to the men and women in uniform and for the military, likewise to reach out to the civilian brothers and sisters," she told reporters.

"That will foster better understanding and good will, reduce prejudice and misconception and go a long way to strengthening the foundation of our nation," she added.

Aquino was asked whether her statement indicated she feared a new coup attempt in the wake of last month's failed bid by military dissidents to topple her nearly four-year-old administration.

"The reason why I am calling the attention of our people to have interaction between civilians and the military is because I believe this is the best way we can prevent another coup attempt," she said.

Last week, President George Bush's deputy

national security adviser, Robert Gates, conferred with Aquino to express American support for Philippine democracy.

Some Manila newspapers reported that Gates apparently had urged Aquino to "get her house in order" and press ahead with urgent reforms to improve government effectiveness so as to prevent a new coup attempt.

Asked if she received such a message, Aquino said no US official "told me to keep my house in order and it's good that they did not because that would have gotten a different comment from me."

Aquino has consistently branded leaders of the coup attempt as "power-grabbers." Rebel leaders claimed the Aquino government was ineffectual and corrupt and had lost its mandate.

On Saturday, Aquino ruled out calling a special election to reaffirm her mandate before her term ends in 1992.

In a statement to the Associated Press, a spokesman for the dissidents claimed Aquino "is suffering from illusion."

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Industrial complex in caves unearthed

TEL MARESHA, Jan 22, (AP): Not far from the site where the Old Testament says David fought Goliath, Israeli archaeologists are peeling the mystery away from a vast network of man-made caves dating back at least 2,700 years.

Archaeologist Amos Kloner said the city of Tel Maresha flourished as a commercial centre of about 5,000 people and was the likely birthplace of King Herod, who rebuilt the ancient Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

Unique among ancient cities, the people of Maresha established their industry underground. They raised pigeons, manufactured olive oil, stabled their horses, collected rain water and buried their dead in underground chambers chiseled from soft chalk limestone.

Kloner, who has spent 15 years excavating and mapping the network of more than 1,000 interlocking chambers, said the caves were in continuous use from at least the 8th century BC until 40 BC, when Maresha was overrun by Parthians from ancient Armenia.

Puzzle

Why the ancients chose to invest so heavily in underground development is still a puzzle, especially since there are no natural caves in the region.

Kloner suggests the reason may have been simple practicality.

The caves were apparently first created when the ancients went underground to quarry stones needed to build a hilltop fortress and surrounding houses. "Maybe it was easier to use such chambers since the walls and roof were already in place," said Kloner, who works for the state antiquities authority.

Lifestyle

The lifestyle, especially during the pagan Hellenistic period when the city reached its peak a few centuries before Christ, is becoming much clearer as a result of the digs.

Teams have unearthed a fortress tower, ordinary houses, thousands of pottery vessels, figurines, a horde of silver coins and an almost perfectly preserved olive oil factory.

"As far as the Hellenistic period is concerned, there is no site more important," Kloner said.

Particularly important are the silver coins, the newest of which were dated 112 BC and found in a house above one of the cave systems.

Kloner said the date confirmed Jewish records about the conquest of the city by John Hyrcanus I, who forced the Edomites to convert to Judaism shortly thereafter.

Pointing to an inscription found in a series of gabled burial chambers, Kloner translated the Greek: "The bones of Beretanu and Apollonius, the sons of Antipater."

A later Antipater was the father of Herod the Great, and existence of the name in Maresha may be further proof that Herod's family originated here, he said.

Kloner said most figurines and other remains in the burial chamber were looted during the 1970s.

Dangerous

The caves are dangerous and are officially closed to the public. The hilly terrain is punctured with open pits from collapsed chambers, some concealed by overgrowth. The caves have no lights; three spelunkers have been killed and a dozen injured in recent years.

The Jewish national fund plans to open the site to the public by next year after the government spends about \$1 million to make the site safe.

The caves, in the Judean foothills 30 miles (50 kms) southwest of Jerusalem, are along a black-topped highway built on a Roman road that passes crusader ruins and the grassy fields of Shephelah, where David the Israelite defeated the Philistine champion Goliath.

The confrontation occurred about the same time that Maresha is first mentioned as an inheritance of the tribe of Judah in the Biblical book of Joshua.

Stunning

Visually, the most stunning discovery is the olive oil works, where giant stone crushing machines, weights and storage chambers are virtually undamaged by the passage of time. The only thing missing are the giant wooden beams used to squeeze the olive mash.

The oil was drained along channels cut in the floor to a collection pit that could store 20,000 litres (5,000 gallons). About 70 such factories exist in the caves. Kloner estimated nearly half the oil, used for heating and lamps, was exported.

Another cave contains 1,900 holes the size and shape of modern loaves of bread and which housed thousands of pigeons.

Researcher expects success against Aids in 90s

NEW YORK, Jan 22, (AP): By the end of the 1990s, Aids may not be curable but it is likely to become a manageable chronic disease that doesn't shorten life expectancy, a leading US government Aids researcher has said.

"I have a good deal of confidence ... that we can look forward to the 1990s as the kind of a decade where that goal can be realised," said Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the national programme to test and evaluate new anti-Aids drugs.

He spoke Sunday at the New York City medical symposium in New York.

Learning to manage and control Aids is not the same as curing it. The treatments of the 1990s will probably have to be continued for life in people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, that causes Aids, he said.

Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, one of the

US national institutes of health. The institute operates a national Aids drug-testing programme which some 10,000 people are subjects in experimental tests at 46 medical centres across the United States.

Fauci said he based his optimistic prediction for the 1990s on the growing understanding of the workings of the Aids virus, the success in Aids treatment achieved so far, and a philosophical shift in the way the US govern-

ment makes new drugs available.

Until now, Aids drugs have been developed largely by screening available substances for possible anti-viral activity, he said. The increasing understanding of how the virus infects cells, kills them and reproduces is leading to new drugs aimed directly at each of those steps in the virus' growth, Fauci said.

"Already there are several drugs ready to go into (human) clinical trials

that have been specifically tailored to HIV," Fauci said.

Fauci said researchers scored several successes against Aids during the 1980s.

First, they improved care of the sick. In 1985, less than 40 per cent of people diagnosed with Aids survived 18 months. By 1987, 60 per cent lived at least that long after diagnosis, Fauci said.

Second, researchers discovered that treatment could be helpful in people

who are infected with HIV but have not yet become sick. For example, drugs to protect against pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, an often fatal Aids complication, can now sharply reduce its frequency.

Azidothymidine, the current mainstay of treatment in people sick with Aids, has been shown to significantly delay the progression on onset of symptoms in people infected with HIV but not yet sick, Fauci said.

Lacroix bowls over the world

PARIS, Jan 22, (AP): Runways were sizzling and bursting into bloom as summer couture shows opened this weekend in Paris.

The extravagant dream clothes by Gianni Versace, Christian Lacroix, Hanne Mori and Torrence all showed in different ways that couture women for the 1990s will be draped in flowery, feathery styles.

Italian Gianni Versace got a jump on the French couture houses by showing his feathery delectable styles Saturday night at the new luxury Ritz Hotel pool, covered to become a floor for the guests.

"Paris is mine" crowed the 43-year-old designer after his first show of "atelier" clothes in the city of lights.

Not an official member of the French Designers Association — the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture — Versace turned out witty, sexy and colourful styles with enough elaborate beading to create a couture effect.

"Great for wives of the mafia," growled one resident French fashion commentator.

But Julie Andrews loved them. "Especially the little sheaths with bon effects and jewelled necklines," said the star who looked fresh enough to dance all night.

Versace is designing the costumes for a new film starring Miss Andrews and Marcello Mastroianni. Entitled "Chin Chin" it will be directed by Gene Saks.

Versace won hearts with his sexy cuts that were too playful to be vulgar. His use of elaborate beading, ostrich feathers and rhinestones on asymmetrical long or short skirts were typical of the inventive Italian who now likes Paris as his showcase.

His swirled breastplate effects on bustiers viewed with embroidered combed dell'arte harlequin and abstract effects in hot colours on lean pants or quilted skirts.

Whether women pick his little ostrich-feather tulle styles or the fringed rhinestone-edged flame red sheath split up to the hip, the new styles wouldn't be too out of place at the newly-refurbished Ritz. With its disco, cooking school and health club, it's a far cry from the stuffy society palace of the old days.

Christian Lacroix's show at the Intercontinental Hotel ballroom was no less stunning, a class act that began with some wonderful dressy silk and crepe suits with fitted asymmetrical jackets and huge rhinestone buttons.

He had all kinds of lovely ideas in opulent fabrics, often bringing out his signature touches like trapeze-shaped coats, enormous puff sleeves, draped flairs or shawl effects, the occasional big organza bow-tie down the back.

He also brought out some luscious organza edged in appliqued flowers and looking more adorable than Alice in Wonderland. These were a present for conservative chic could opt for the sequined calf or a lilt lean pants topped by an eye-shaped tunic of rust cloque silk with big puffs of bronze faille trim.

Lacroix used clouds of ostrich feathers to give a light touch to some beautifully-cut chiffons and georgette silks, absolutely winning in delectable colours like butter, peach and tea rose pink. And looking like his own little queen, no doubt about it. Lacroix may be an artist above all, but he's definitely become a couturier.

His Sunday night show at the Opera Comique promises to wow the fashion crowd with an even bigger spectacular to salute his new perfume, "C'est in Vite."

Lacroix, who has spent \$40 million promoting his perfume, set out to win the hearts and minds of his future customers with a show that revelled in the luxury only individually-tailored haute couture can offer.

Japanese couturiere Hanne Mori (a Paris designer for over 15 years now) blossomed out with the sexiest, youngest fashion she's ever shown to celebrate her 35 years in fashion.

Her skirts were often draped, clinging with headlines way above the knee, jackets were fitted and sometimes featured plunging necklines over very low sweetheart strapless dresses. These were great in navy silk crepes with white gypsy lace edging.

Brown was a favourite with Mrs Mori for next summer, and she doled it up beautifully in white-striped fitted silk gros grain suits, draped it and paired it with lace in slinky evening gowns.

She also went in for some stretchy vermilion draped silk, and striking shades like cyclamen purple paired with gold lame.

World's first lung implant

Docs set to perform

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania, Jan 22, (UPI): Doctors at Penn State University's Hershey medical centre say they are ready to implant the world's first artificial lung into a human recipient.

Dr. Kane High, a professor of anesthesiology, said the membrane lung similar to those used on a heart-lung-machine is ready to be tested, and the search for patient has begun.

The new device will be the first to be directly inserted in the body, where doctors hope it will take over lung function until the patient's own lungs can heal.

Artificial lungs for humans have been around for years, but all have involved removing blood to an outside unit for oxygen enrichment.

If the artificial lung works, it could help victims of what doctors call adult respiratory distress syndrome, serious respiratory failure caused by trauma or infection.

Among the candidates for the lung would be victims of near-drowning, smoke inhalation and pneumonia. High said lung cancer patients in the early stages of the disease also may benefit from the artificial lung.

High said doctors will choose a patient in a life-threatening

situation to receive the first implant.

"As soon as a suitable patient is identified ... he will be transported to Hershey and the device will be implanted," High said. "We want to test the safety of the device and see how it performs in humans."

"In this phase of the study we're hoping it will assist patients who are connected to ventilators and can't get carbon dioxide out of their lungs," High said. "This device will take over for them."

The Food and Drug Administration recently gave approval for human experiments on the temporary artificial lung.

High said while the artificial lung will be tested first at Hershey, subsequent implants will be performed at three other US hospitals: LDS hospital in Salt Lake City, the Los Angeles county-university of Southern California medical centre and the University of Michigan medical centre in Ann Arbor.

Doctors will insert the device — called an intravascular oxygenator, or ivox — in the patient's central vein, situated in the chest, to help in the process of filling the body's blood with oxygen and ridding it of carbon dioxide waste.

Exxon made me a scapegoat, says Hazelwood

NEW YORK, Jan 22, (AP): The former captain of the tanker that caused the United States' worst oil spill said he's tired of being portrayed as "a drunken bum with a parrot on my shoulder who drove his ship aground."

Joseph Hazelwood, whose trial in Anchorage, Alaska, on charges stemming from the March disaster is scheduled to begin Jan 29, also said he has received death threats at his home in Huntington on Long Island.

"I'm handling infamy reasonably well," the Exxon Valdez former skipper said in Life magazine's February issue. "But it's amazing how it

won't go away."

He said Exxon Corp. has made him a scapegoat, and said he had been surprised at the time it took to begin cleaning up the spill.

Hazelwood, who has a history of alcohol abuse, has been accused of drinking the night the Exxon Valdez hit a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 million gallons (41.6 million litres) of crude oil.

Prosecutors also say he should have been at the helm since he was the ship's only authorised navigator for the Sound. His attorneys say the coast guard relaxed the rules in 1986.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Making friends

Midshipman Marine Barnein of the visiting Swedish minelayer HMS Carlskrona makes friends with a native koala at wildlife reserve near Sydney this week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quick, safe killer

Last meal for insects

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 22, (AP): Insect pest could be quickly and safely killed by enticing them to eat a gelatinous meal containing parasites, a biologist says.

Such biological pesticides can't harm plants, animals or the environment, but kill beetles, termites, cockroaches, boll weevils, corn rootworms, tobacco worms and other insects within days, said Frank Chang, a Temple University biology professor.

"Biogel" is a soft material that contains an insect attractant, a feeding stimulant, food and nematodes — insects' natural enemies, Chang said. Nematodes live naturally in the soil and farmers, to control pests, spray them in large quantities in fields, a process Chang said is generally inefficient.

SEATTLE, Washington: Actress Loretta Swit will help raise money for a new play area for five "talking" chimpanzees, which re-

searchers at central Washington University say are the first non-human to learn sign language. Swit and the state of Washing-

ton's Governor Booth Gardner were scheduled to host for a \$50,000-per-plate fund-raising dinners Thursday night, which was to include wild chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall.

The effort is for the Washoe project at the campus in Ellensburg, about 125 miles to the east.

Washoe is the pioneering chimp who was the first animal ever to learn human language, said researcher Roger Fouts.

SARASOTA, Florida: Hotel chain owner Leona Helmsley, awaiting an appeal of her tax evasion conviction, toured a beachfront hotel she owns with her billionaire husband Harry.

About 20 employees of the Sandcastle on Lido Key welcomed the couple with banners and yellow roses this week.

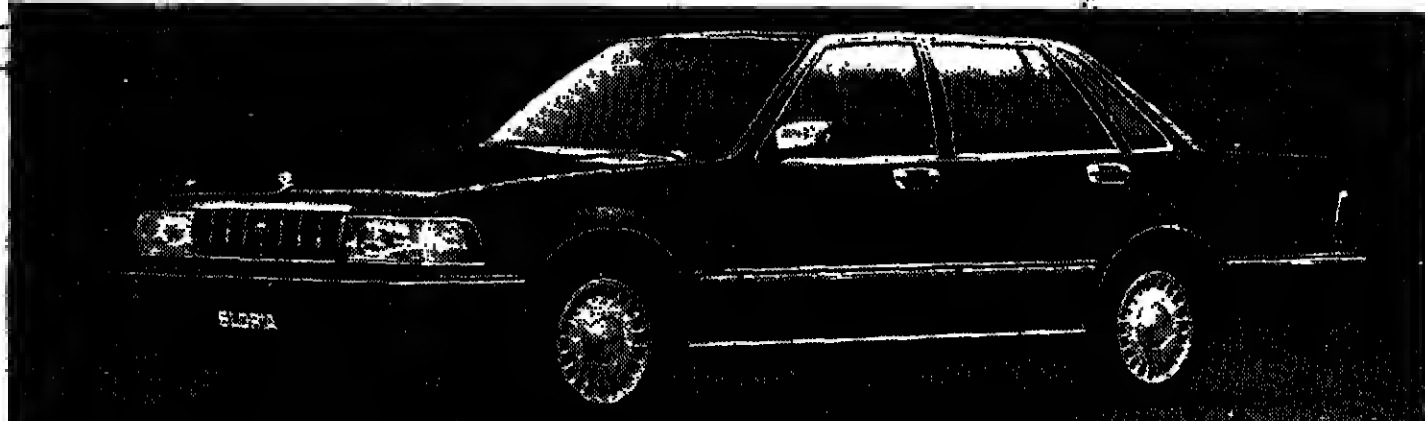
"I don't know any of them," the beaming Mrs. Helmsley said. "But I love them. People are people." As the Helmsleys inspected the hotel grounds, Mrs. Helmsley, 69, turned often to check on her 80-year-old husband, who has had health problems and often lagged behind his wife.

LAS VEGAS, Nevada: Debt-plagued comedian Redd Foxx is trying to keep the Internal Revenue Service from shutting in proceeds from the sale of a Hollywood office building that he co-owns.

Foxx's lawyers are challenging IRS efforts to get a piece of the 1.6 million raised in the sale, saying the agency failed to document back taxes it has received from Foxx.

Beverly Hills attorney Paul Whitford said he will demand a full accounting by the IRS at a hearing scheduled for Tuesday in Las Vegas.

The IRS seized Foxx's Las Vegas home, jewellery, cars and other belongings in November, saying he still owed \$750,000 in back taxes, and scheduled an auction of the property Jan 27. (AP)



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Barry holds hands with wife Effi at St Timothy's Episcopal church in Washington DC. (Reuters wirephoto)



Barry addressing reporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barry to seek help for alcoholism

'He has reached the hour of reckoning': wife Effi

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (AP): Mayor Marion Barry, whose arrest on drug charges has shaken city politics in the US capital, said yesterday he would seek help "to heal my body, mind and soul."

"He has reached the hour of reckoning," said his wife, Effi. At times blinking back tears, the mayor of the US capital provided no further details on what kind of assistance he will seek, except to say that social activist and self-described nutritional expert Dick Gregory has been consulting him on how to get help. An aide said Barry's main problem was with alcoholism.

Top advisers to the mayor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the mayor is considering checking into the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, California and two

unnamed clinics in the Washington area. A decision on where the mayor will be treated is expected before today, the aides said.

Barry's brief statement was the latest event in an unfolding drama that has riveted the nation's capital since the mayor was arrested on drug charges last Thursday night.

While Barry did not say whether he is suffering from drug abuse, others did. Herbert O. Reid Sr., one of the mayor's closest personal advisers, said he hoped that from Barry's travails "we can all learn something about drug addiction."

"He's doing the right thing," Reid said. "I am — we all are — relieved, because many of us have suspected for some time that he has had a problem."

"The most serious problem is alcoholism," Barry spokes-

woman Lurma Rackley said. "The mayor has acknowledged that he has a health concern, and the details are his private matter."

"For you to admit that you have a problem... that you need to make yourself whole again is truly a burden lifted from our souls," the mayor's wife said yesterday in remarks that followed her husband's. "For our family it is just the beginning."

Barry, surrounded by clergy in a broadcast appearance in front of St. Timothy's Episcopal church near his home, clasped his wife's hand and said he has come "face to face with my deepest human failures."

Barry said, "these ministers have helped me to keep the strength I need... I'm going to find a way to heal my body, mind and soul."

The mayor did not take questions and turned the podium to Mrs Barry following his brief statement. Attention has been focused on Mrs. Barry in part because the mayor was lured to his arrest by a woman with whom the mayor has been friendly.

Barry, 53, was arrested Thursday evening at a downtown hotel in an FBI sting operation. He now faces a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge after testing positive for cocaine in blood and urine tests administered following his arrest.

Barry had been poised to announce his bid for a fourth term as mayor yesterday but his arrest has thrown local politics into convulsions. Several advisers said Barry had agreed to abandon his bid for re-election, and they added that the possibility of his resignation from

office was never discussed in Friday and Saturday strategy sessions.

Fifty seven per cent of Washingtonians believe mayor and accused drug user Marion Barry should resign and forget his re-election bid, a poll indicated yesterday.

At the same time many believed the prosecution of Barry, a black was racially-motivated by white US attorney Jay Stephens and other senior officials.

The Washington Post poll of 661 city residents found seven out of 10 believed the mayor probably had illegally used cocaine when arrested Thursday Night. And 43 per cent, a plurality, agreed with a question in the poll that asked if Barry had "only himself to blame" for his troubles.

Noriega piled up a \$300m fortune

Money made selling Panamanian visas

LOS ANGELES, Jan 22, (Agencies): Ousted Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega amassed a personal fortune during his years in power that may approach \$300 million, including a \$27 million castle in France, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

The United States believes Noriega acquired much of the money in the last two years through a scheme in which Panamanian visas were sold at huge prices to Cuban and Chinese citizens desperate to leave their countries, the Times said, quoting US and Panamanian sources.

Up to 18,000 immigrants, some who paid \$10,000 or more for the documents, are believed to have entered Panama under the scheme, which was co-ordinated by Noriega, the newspaper said. One source described as knowledgeable estimated that Noriega, currently in US custody in Florida facing drug trafficking charges, personally made more than \$100 million from the scheme.

Noriega is also believed to have made vast sums from his stewardship of the country's customs and tax

systems, and his relationship with Colombian drug cartels, which allegedly paid him for his assistance in allowing drug runners to use Panama as a base, the newspaper said.

Surprising

Included in the fortune, the Times said, is a surprising amount of real estate, including the castle in the south of France, a large estate in Sweden and expensive houses in Europe.

In most countries, such property is more difficult to confiscate than bank accounts, even if it can be shown to have been acquired illicitly, the Times said.

Panamanian controller general Ruben Carias told the newspaper during the weekend that the new government plans as early as Monday to stake a formal claim to the Noriega wealth.

Officials of the US-installed Panamanian government admit that Washington may have exaggerated the extent of Noriega's wealth, the Miami Herald reported Monday.

The US State Department's contention that Noriega's personal wealth was "at least \$200 to \$300 million" will be hard to prove, investigators looking into Noriega's fortune told the newspaper.

Documents

Many of the assets cited by the administration as evidence of the general's personal wealth belonged to Panama's defence forces or are registered to businessmen close to the general, according to documents emerging from Panamanian government offices in the aftermath of the Dec 20 US invasion.

"At least in point," the Herald said, "was the State Department allegation that Noriega owned a Boeing 727 aircraft, three Lear jets and three luxury boats."

In reality, officials conclude, documents found in government offices in recent weeks suggest that none of those planes and boats may be traceable to Noriega.

"All these properties cited by the US government exist but were not his," said Mario Rogon, a former commerce minister with the Noriega regime. "It's like saying that Camp David belongs to Bush."

Camp David is a government-owned presidential retreat near Washington DC, used by President George Bush and his predecessors in the White House.

Evidence

Other officials counter that there is widespread evidence of Noriega amassing a significant personal fortune after taking over Panama's defence forces in 1983. US troops claimed they found more than \$4 million in cash at Noriega's home after the invasion.

Meanwhile, an attorney for Noriega said the defence doesn't intend to rest in its flight to get the ousted dictator out on bond pending his Miami federal trial on drug-trafficking charges.

"The government is taking a position which precludes the possibility of bond for Gen. Noriega at any time in this case," said Steven Kollin, one of several attorneys for the former Panamanian defence force commander.

"Our position is that the government cannot meet the burden of their pre-trial detention demand either on the issue of risk of flight or danger to the community," Kollin said Sunday.

Diane Cossin, spokeswoman for the US attorney's office in Miami, said the prosecution believes it has met the burden.

Meanwhile, Samuel Burstin, an attorney for Noriega co-defendant Luis Del Cid, said Sunday he'll travel to Panama City this week seeking evidence and testimony to bolster his efforts to win bond for Del Cid.

Cali cartel's base raided

Drug lord's girl held

BOGOTA, Jan 22, (Agencies): The Colombian Army seized three apartments belonging to the reputed leader of the cocaine cartel based in the southern city of Cali and detained his daughter, an army spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said three luxurious apartments belonging to the suspect, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, were seized on Friday and Saturday in the capital.

Meanwhile, police said Sunday that 12 people were found slain at a tourist ranch near the town of Gomez Plata, 186 miles (240 kms) north of the capital of Bogota.

The Antioquia state police identified the dead as two managers of the ranch and 10 youths from the city of Medellin. The victims' hands and feet were bound and the bodies bore multiple bullet wounds, police said in a communique.

They did not say when the killings had taken place, nor how the bodies were discovered. It was not known whether the incident was drug-related.

The raided apartments had been vacant since last Aug. 18, when the government decreed the extradition of drug suspects and ordered the seizure of their properties as part of a crackdown on the traffickers, the spokesman told the Associated Press by telephone.

He said the army had been staking out the apartments in the last few weeks in the hope of capturing Rodriguez Orejuela, wanted in the United States on charges of smuggling at least 20 tonnes of cocaine into the country and of directing a money laundering ring.

Rodriguez Orejuela's daughter, Claudia Rodriguez, was captured when she entered one of the residences. Army officials questioned her for several hours before releasing her, the spokesman said. He added that there

were no criminal charges pending against the woman.

In the raids the army seized documents and photographs showing Rodriguez Orejuela's contacts with several political leaders and with the managers and players of Cali's professional soccer team, the spokesman said.

US officials have said the Cali cartel and its rival organisation based in the city of Medellin account for 80 per cent of the cocaine sold on US streets.

Since August, a terrorist campaign by the traffickers has killed 209 persons.

Last week the Medellin cartel offered to abandon the cocaine trade in return for constitutional and legal guarantees. The Medellin traffickers did not specify what terms of assurances they wanted.

The raid came only hours after President Virgilio Barco's government vowed to continue its 5-month-old war against the cocaine cartels — along with extraditing drug trafficking suspects to the United States — despite the drug lords' purported surrender.

"The activities of the military forces of the national police and the department of national security have been successful and will continue being carried out in order to finish dismantling the gangs of hitmen and the narco-terrorist organisations," Barco's administration said Friday.

The statement by Barco's administration said the offer to surrender showed Colombia's drug traffickers had recognised their own defeat.

In Washington, the US Marshals Service said Joseph Anshel-Cohen, 38, a native of Morocco and a naturalised citizen of Colombia, was turned over by Colombian authorities to a team of the Marshals Service's special operations group early Sunday in Bogota and flown to Boston, where he is under indictment on charges of participating in a cocaine trafficking ring.

Abortion rift in Bush family

Activists hold rally

NEW YORK, Jan 22, (AP): US President George Bush and his family are deeply divided on the abortion issue, with the women pro-choice and the men anti-abortion, Newsweek magazine reported in this week's issue.

The US news magazine said it learned that Bush and his wife Barbara discussed the issue at a recent family gathering with their children and spouses.

The family split down the middle; all the men were anti-abortion and all the women were pro-choice, Newsweek said, without identifying its source.

The magazine added that some of the women, including First Lady Barbara Bush, said abortion should not be without controls, but they believed in a woman's right to choice in certain circumstances.

Mrs Bush has refused to answer reporters' questions about her personal view on abortion.

March Bush opposes abortion except to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest. He opposes federal funding of abortions except to save the mother's life.

Bush last year vetoed three bills over abortion-related issues. Some Republican strategies blame the party's hard-line stance against abortion rights for recent defeats.

Bush has said his opposition to abortion is unwavering, but that the Republican Party is large enough to embrace people with differing views on the issue.

Abortion supporters, marking the 17th anniversary of the US Supreme Court's landmark ruling, raised the spectre of Roman-ia's former communist repression today in warning against a rollback of abortion rights.

As opponents of abortion prepared to rally outside the White House, the head of the national abortion rights action league told a gathering on Capitol Hill that legalising abortions was one of the first steps Romania took after overthrowing its hated dictator last month.

travesty "Romanians know firsthand what most Americans can only imagine — the deadly impact of government bans on abortion," said Kate Michelman, executive director of the abortion-rights lobbying group.

"It would be a travesty if the United States, the beacon of

democracy in the world, applauded Romania's reforms while adopting repressive anti-choice laws here at home," he said.

Activists on both sides of the issue — sensing 1990 will be a pivotal year in the political debate on abortion — held competing events marking the anniversary of the Roe vs Wade decision that legalised abortions.

Abortion foes expected tens of thousands of marches in Washington, and more at smaller events around the country.

Bush promised to speak over a loudspeaker by telephone to the anti-abortion crowd gathered on the Ellipse, a park behind the White House. It was the same method he used at a similar rally last year, when the new president called abortion an "American tragedy."

Landmark After hearing Bush and a handful of congressmen and other speakers, the crowd planned to march up Pennsylvania avenue to the US Capitol and the Supreme Court.

Activists across the United States Sunday commemorated the 17th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision legalising abortion by attending church ceremonies, staging marches and partaking in other activities marking a "black day" for opponents and "a victory" for supporters.

The Supreme Court isn't doing anything to save the 25 million babies slaughtered over the last 17 years," said Nellie Gray, president of the anti-abortion march for life in Washington, DC. "This is a black day for us. We're not going to go away until all innocent life in America is saved."

Victory Sheri O'Dell, vice-president of the National Organisation for Women, said a march planned in the nation's capital Monday was particularly important to abortion rights supporters because of the Supreme Court's decision last summer giving states greater leeway to restrict abortion.

"It's always important to commemorate Roe vs. Wade but it's real critical this year because of the Webster decision handed down last year and more abortion cases currently before the court," O'Dell said Sunday.

Threat to boycott US meet

Anger at US policy

PARIS, Jan 22, (AP): French Health Minister Claude Evvin has added his name to the list of prominent Europeans threatening to boycott an international meeting in San Francisco unless Congress changes a US law he said "stupidly discriminates" against Aids victims.

At least 16 organisations from France, Scandinavia, Britain and elsewhere have announced that they plan to boycott the meeting scheduled this summer unless the US government changes the policy that prohibits people suffering Aids from entering the United States without a special waiver. Those granted the waiver have their passport stamped with a permanent number indicating they are

infected with the HIV virus.

Evvin, in a letter to World Health Organisation secretary general Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, condemned the US immigration law that "discriminates on the basis of health." He said he will not attend the huge sixth International Conference on Aids to be held June 20-24 in San Francisco "in the absence of guarantees respecting individual liberty."

WHO is one of the sponsors of the prestigious meeting, which each year draws doctors, researchers, health officials and representatives from many of the world's most respected health organisations.



Air links resumed

Argentina and Britain resumed direct air links Sunday for the first time since the 1982 Falkland Islands War.

An Aerolineas Argentinas flight arrived in London at 1310 GMT, and a British Airways commercial jet touched down in this South American capital about 2 and 1-2 hours later.

The approximately 40 passengers getting off the British Airways plane, which had left most passengers at previous stops in the Brazilian cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, were greeted by Bagpipers. (Picture top).

Later, British consul Alan Hunt and British Airways regional manager Ian Gillespie exchanged champagne loaves with Argentine officials.

An Argentine official stands on the runway at Heathrow airport (top) after the resumption. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ortega feared ambush

MANAGUA, Jan 22, (AP): President Daniel Ortega has said there were plans by US-backed rebels to ambush him in a remote region of northern Nicaragua where he campaigned for the upcoming elections.

He said that if such an ambush were to occur and he or others around him were hurt, the United States would be responsible.

No ambush occurred, and his assertions could not be independently corroborated.

Ortega spoke at a political rally in San Juan de Rio Coco, a small town in the northern province of Madriz, which borders Honduras. A tape of his speech was provided to the Associated Press.

Ortega is running for re-election against Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the candidate of the US-backed United National Opposition, or UNO. General elections are scheduled for Feb 25.

The leftist Sandinista government has said the number of combat incidents with the rebels, known as Contras, has increased sharply this month.

Ortega spoke yesterday morning at a rally in Quilali, then left for San Juan de Rio Coco.

"Now that we were coming from Quilali, they (Contras) tried to stage an ambush on the road," Ortega said.

US study links overpopulation to ignorance in Third World countries: more schools for women needed

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (AP): More schools and more jobs for women would do most to hold down huge growth in the numbers of people in the Third World, a report by the population institute said yesterday.

It found a link between ignorance and overpopulation.

"The population explosion is no longer a prediction. It's already here," according to the institute, an advocacy group on this issue.

The study noted that last year, the world's population increased by more than 90 million peo-

ple. Rich countries like the United States have ignorant people as well as the Third World, though there are fewer. The report said that among people in some industrial countries, one in 10 is "functionally illiterate." That is, they can read and write some, but they can not follow printed instructions to write a simple letter.

The report said about 900 million of the world's 5.5 billion people cannot read, and that almost two out of every three illiterates are women. "In Sudan women with no formal education had,

on average, 6.5 children," it said. "But Sudanese women with four to six years of school averaged five children and those with seven or more years of school averaged 3.4 children."

"In Mexico... uneducated women had an average of eight children but women with seven or more years of education averaged 2.7," the report said.

The study reported that women who get only one or two years of school tend to have more surviving children rather than fewer. It suggested that was because even a little education helps a mother keep her babies alive. Women who stay at school longer

get married later and know more about contraceptives.

The study was prepared by Harold N. Burdett, the institute's director of information, and Werner Fornas, its president.

"Nations that have opened up the schoolhouse and the workplace to women have experienced uniform declines in their fertility rates."

At a news conference, he praised South Korea for its programme to give all girls eight years of school and to emphasise the textile industry as a big employer of women.

Racial crime grows in US

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (Reuters): Two fatal bombings in December have brought warnings from the government about a growing threat of violence in the United States from hate groups pushing their own style of bigotry.

"We face a mounting threat," Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, the country's chief law enforcement official, said in a recent speech. "Some 230 hate groups in the United States have multiplied racial violence eight-fold over the '80s."

The bombs — both sent by post — killed white federal judge Robert Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, and black attorney Robert Robinson in Savannah, Georgia. Vance had made several rulings in favour of civil rights and against hate groups.

Two other mail bombs were found at a federal courthouse in Atlanta, Georgia and the Jacksonville, Florida, office of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), one of the biggest and oldest of US civil rights groups.

Federal investigators said all four bombs were similar and probably were sent by the same person or group, but no suspects have been identified.

The previously unknown Americans for a Competent Federal Judicial System claimed responsibility for the bombings and threatened to kill other judges and NAACP officials in retaliation for alleged sexual attacks by blacks against white women.

Bigotry

"When we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, hate mail — each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America," President George Bush said at a White House ceremony marking the birthday of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., the black civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968.

Thornburgh said the bombings were part of an increase in attacks by hate groups against blacks, Jews, Asians and other minorities.

"Our continuing course will be to investigate, indict and punish those who unleash their bigotry and intolerance in cowardly acts of anonymous vandalism, open abuse or conspiratorial violence," he said.

He said the Justice Department had prosecuted 62 defendants in 41 racial cases last year, twice as many as in any single year before, and had won almost every case.

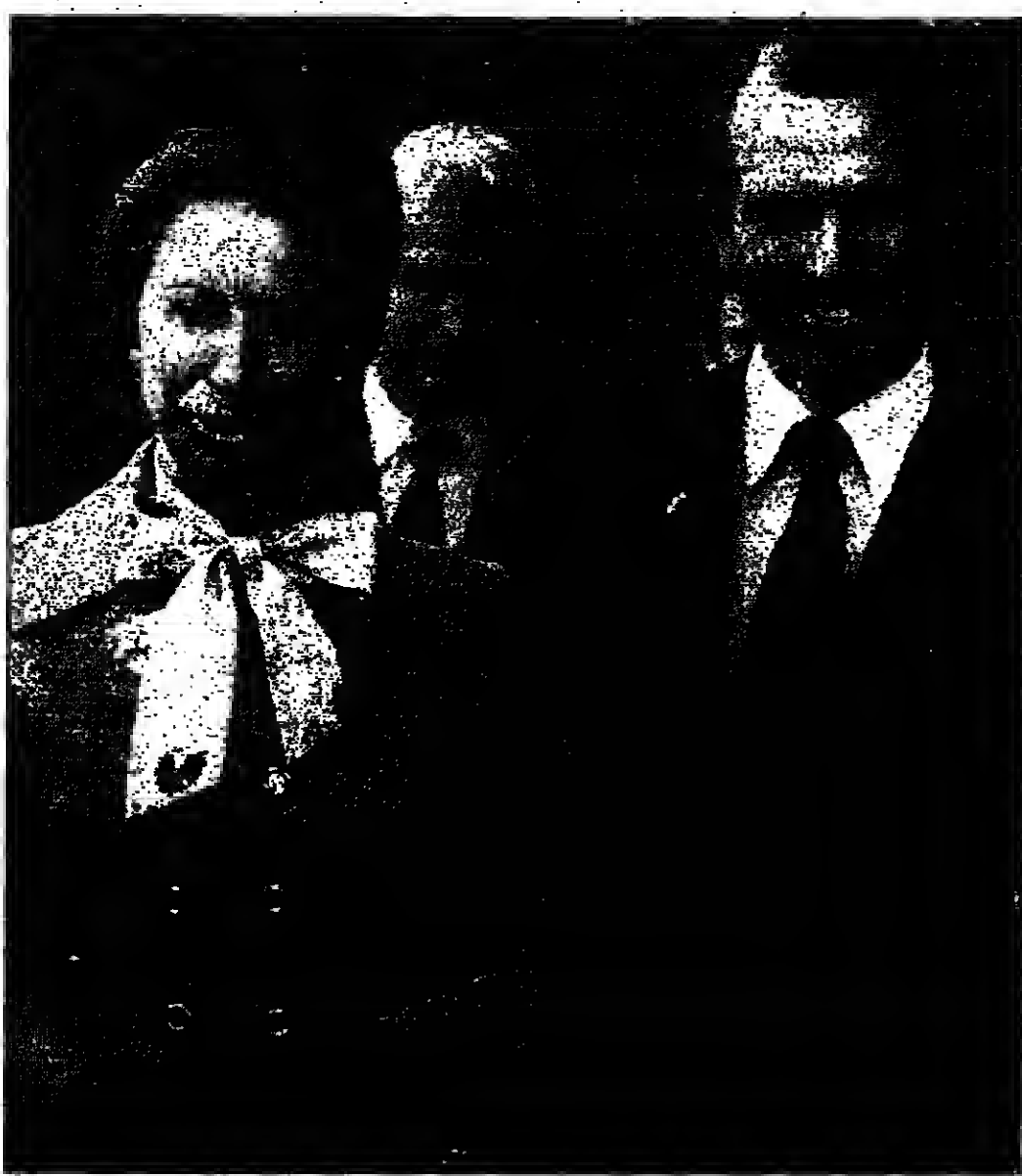
Groups he cited included those with names like the Order, White Aryan Resistance and Posse Comitatus, which all advocate white supremacy.

Daniel Levitas of the Atlanta-based Centre for Democratic Renewal said there were about 20,000 hard core activists in the hate groups with another 200,000 supporters.

The Ku Klux Klan, the post-civil war group whose hooded members terrorised blacks with lynchings and beatings, is still active with cross burnings and other acts of intimidation but it has split into some two dozen factions with a total membership of about 5,000, according to Levitas.

So-called skinheads, mostly teenagers and young men, have about 3,000 members in groups across the country, he said.

"The past decade saw a resurgence of bigoted violence," Levitas said in an interview.



Anne and Mark during happier times.

Queen 'gives permission'

Anne denies divorce

LONDON, Jan 22, (Reuters): Britain's Princess Anne denied a headline report today that she was planning to divorce her estranged husband Mark Phillips.

"I haven't seen a paper today," Queen Elizabeth's only daughter told Independent Television News. "Divorce? Never been mentioned by anybody."

Princess Anne, looking puzzled, was speaking from behind the wheel of a farm vehicle on her country estate in western England.

Princess Anne and Phillips announced their separation last August, saying there were no plans for divorce proceedings.

In a report headlined "Anne: I want a quickie divorce", the Daily Express said the princess was pushing to end the 15-year-old marriage despite Phillips' wish to let the separation run on indefinitely.

The tabloid popular press was split on just when the royal rift would become permanent and whether Queen Elizabeth had given her only daughter permission to divorce Phillips quickly.

Many of Britain's royal-watcher journalists had predicted the marriage would be dissolved with minimum fuss after a two-year legal separation.

A divorce before then would require the couple to list grounds other than separation for ending the marriage.

The Daily Express said this would force the royal family to wash its dirty linen in public.

The Daily Mirror and Today reported that Queen Elizabeth had given Anne permission to divorce Phillips. But the Daily Mirror said the monarch was insisting the 39-year-old princess should not rush to untie the knot.

"Mark knew his marriage was over but for the sake of the children he wanted the break to be a gradual one rather than the unadvised rush it has become," the Daily Express quoted an unidentified close friend of the former army captain as saying.

The couple's two children, Peter, 12, and Zara, eight, are at boarding school.

The split followed reports linking Princess Anne romantically to Commander Timothy Lawrence, the queen's former equerry and author of several personal letters to the princess which were later stolen and sent to a newspaper.

Reporting that a divorce plan had been hammered out at a recent meeting between the queen and her daughter, the Daily Mirror said a second marriage would be out of the question.

"The queen just couldn't sanction this because of her religious position (as head of the Church of England)," it quoted a Buckingham Palace source as saying.

PhD shortage warned: A group of US research universities issued a policy statement on Sunday calling for prompt US government action to prevent an impending shortage of PhD graduates that threatens both business and higher education.

"Starting in about 1970, the government sharply reduced its commitments to the support of doctoral students on the grounds that freely functioning labour markets would produce the appropriate supply," Association of American Universities president Robert Rosenzweig wrote in the report's preface. (UPI)

Computer hacker case: The jury in the trial of a Cornell University graduate student accused of unleashing a "worm" that shut down some 6,000 computers will have to weigh the defendant's claim that the incident was nothing more than an experiment that went awry.

After testimony concluded Thursday, US district judge Howard Munson told the jury of nine women and three men they could expect to hear closing arguments Monday and that he would then instruct them on the law applicable to the case before allowing them to begin deliberations.

"Keep an open mind until you've heard summation of counsel," Munson advised the jury. (UPI)

Man held in slaying: Police arrested a Japanese man on a murder charge this week, hours after the bodies of his wife and two young children were unearthed at a mud-covered construction site in Portland's West Hills.

Yoshio Morimoto, 33, of Beaverton, was taken into custody without incident about 9.15 pm at a downtown Portland apartment where a working associate lives, said Beaverton police spokesman Mark Hyde.

An excavation crew working in a large pile of mud at an apartment complex, under construction found the buried body of Miya Morimoto, 3.

The body of 9-month-old Shou Morimoto was found as a backhoe was used to carefully remove layers of dirt and mud. The body of Kiko Morimoto, 31, was found under about 15 feet (5 m) of dirt, said Beaverton police spokesman Mark Hyde. (UPI)

Explorer wants Antarctica protected: Polar explorer Will Steger, in the midst of an attempt at an unprecedented dog-led trek across Antarctica, is calling for environmental protections for the earth's coldest continent.

"We've got to leave this continent alone," Steger said by satellite telephone from the Soviet Vostok Research Station.

"Granting mineral rights to competing countries would put us back in a cold war situation 10 or 15 years from now when we run out of uranium. It'd be like the '50s all over again, and we can't afford to regress like that." (UPI)

Gunmen shot after robbery: Police and FBI agents who had trailed two gunmen to a bank fatally shot them after they robbed it and tried to flee with a bag of cash.

The men, unaware they were being followed, ran into the Hamilton Federal Savings Bank in the New York City borough of Brooklyn on Thursday wearing stocking masks and ski caps. The men carried a sawed-off shotgun and a revolver, authorities said.

About 30 heavily armed FBI agents and police sealed off the block. The robbers jumped in their car and tried to drive away, attempting to run down two officials in the process. Neither was injured.

Officers fired into the car, killing both men, said assistant chief Joseph Calabrese. Witnesses said at least 20 shots were fired at the car.

The two men had been linked to a crime ring responsible for a dozen area bank robberies during the past 18 months that netted more than \$250,000, said William Y. Doran, head of the FBI's criminal division in the city. (AP)

Stalker points finger at senior officials for ouster

RUC inquiry row flares again

LONDON, Jan 22, (AP): John Stalker, the cop whose thwarted investigation came to symbolise doubts about justice in Northern Ireland, is back to haunt the British government.

Stalker, who was removed in 1986 before completing an inquiry into killings by police in Northern Ireland, says he has documentary proof that his ouster was engineered by "senior civil servants, possibly at the cabinet level" in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government.

If Stalker is to be believed — and the government strongly denies it — his removal was intended to obstruct an investigation of alleged murder and perjury by officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force.

Trevor Forth, recently retired as chief of the RUC's anti-terrorist special branch, was quoted by the Sunday Times as saying "there was no conspiracy and no cover-up within the RUC."

If there had been, he argued, Stalker's deputy also would have been removed, but he was not.

Stalker's new claim of proof came last week after fraud charges against his friend, Kevin Taylor, were dismissed in Manchester crown court. Their relationship was at the core of the inquiry that led to Stalker's suspension.

Ireland unites to save Fogg the turtle

DUBLIN, Jan 22, (Reuters): On a divided and tragic island where bombs and bullets so often make the headlines, Ireland North and South have joined forces to save the life of a turtle.

The tiny loggerhead turtle, washed up exhausted on the shores of western Ireland, has become a media star and even joined the Irish Army after his incredible journey from the balmy Caribbean to the storm-tossed Atlantic.

The three-year-old turtle was found last week by a local fisherman lying barely alive on a County Kerry beach. He had been swept thousands of miles on the currents of the gulf stream.

A specially equipped aquarium at Portlary in British-ruled Northern Ireland offered to take the turtle for rest and recuperation and that is where the Irish Army stepped in.

The turtle was flown by the Irish state airline Aer Lingus to Dublin last Friday and then transferred to a military helicopter.

Diplomatic clearance had to be sought for the flight to the north where Irish Republican Army guerrillas are fighting to oust Britain and unite Ireland. That clearance was speedily granted.

A further hitch arose. Civilians are not allowed on Irish military aircraft.

So the turtle was christened Corporal Fogg after the hero of Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days" and sent flying off in style.

Portlary aquarium spokesman Dee Pettigrew said: "The co-operation between north and south was just great. It was a fantastic sight to see the helicopter from the south landing on our local football field opposite the police station."

The turtle promptly became a star on Irish television on both sides of the border and acquired a new name.

"We shouted to the helicopter pilot to ask if the turtle had a name. He said 'I call him Timmy' so that has it now," Pettigrew told Reuters.

"I have always said that the charges against Mr. Taylor were a contrivance, a means of getting at me through him," Stalker said. Taylor's attorneys argued that detectives lied to obtain a warrant to examine Taylor's bank records. Documents relating to the warrant are now missing, prosecutors admitted.

Britain's director of public prosecutions, Allen Green, asked Manchester police to investigate their handling of the case that was so damaging to Stalker, who was then Manchester's second-highest officer.

"No one involved in the greater Manchester police should be involved in the inquiry except as witnesses," protested Cecil Franks, a lawmaker from Thatcher's Conservative Party and long-time supporter of Stalker.

Home Secretary David Waddington, the cabinet official responsible for law enforcement, resisted calls for a judicial inquiry.

"People are too prone these days to come up with conspiracy theories without looking at what, in fact, happened," Waddington said. "If Mr. Stalker has a document which he feels is relevant I am sure he will produce it."

Stalker said he would do that but only to "someone with direct access to and authority from the cabinet."

The Stalker story goes back to Oct 27, 1982, when Irish Republican Army guerrillas killed three RUC officers in an ambush with a land mine.

On Nov 11, 1982, three suspects identified by an informer were shot to death by special branch officers. On Nov 24, the same unit killed one man and wounded another near a hay barn, where police believed the mine that killed their colleagues had been stored.

UK ban on scarves inflames Muslims

LONDON, Jan 22, (KUNA): A ban on two Muslim sisters wearing headscarves in school could cause a row like the Salman Rushdie affair, an Islamic religious leader has warned here.

The British newspaper "Today" said that "anger" is mounting among Muslims over the ban on Fatima and Aisla Alvi, who were turned away from their local school near Manchester, northern England, for wearing the head cover demanded by their faith.

The president of the British-based International Muslim Organisation, Mohammed Siddiq, told the paper "I fear this will blow up like the Salman Rushdie incident."

He called on the school governors to understand that "everyone who lives in Britain should respect each other's religion."

Siddiq urged the British government to force Alfritham Grammar School, Cheshire, northern England, to lift the ban on Fatima, 15, and 14-year-old Aisla.

Meanwhile, the school governors were meeting today to discuss the crisis.

The commission of racial equality in Britain has warned of legal action if this ban is not lifted.

The question of whether Muslim schoolgirls should be allowed to wear headscarves has already caused a bitter row in France.

■ 200 Muslims meeting in Coventry, the English midlands, have agreed to establish a new charter to combat attacks on Islam at all levels in the UK, it was reported in London today.

The gathering yesterday was originally designed to discuss the ongoing row over the Salman Rushdie affair.

■ The 46-member Islamic Organisation Conference (IOC) headed by Tunisian-born scholar Yusuf Siddiq as a heretic yesterday, saying he professed the Muslim religion in his comic-strip version of the Holy Quran.

"By indulging in a sacrilegious act which breaches the authenticity of the Holy Quran, the author of this series of cartoons, has committed an act of true heresy harmful to Islam and Muslims", IOC secretary-general Hamid Al Ghabli said.



Cardin collection

A Cardin model presents a long buttoned jacket over a pair of light bermudas and matching hat during the 1990 spring-summer high fashion collection in Paris. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spies active

Struggle for new image

VIENNA, Jan 22, (AP): Democratic reforms in East European nations and the ending of the cold war have not ended countries' foreign espionage activities, according to Western specialists.

Experts say East European spies are still on the job, even though the security and espionage agencies they serve are facing reorganisation under new governments.

Authorities in East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria have all said that security forces have a place even in open societies. Traditionally these nations have combined internal security operations with foreign espionage.

But the exact size and mandate of the surviving services — as well as the fate of their foreign espionage networks — is mostly obscured by the traditional lack of public accountability.

One new development is that under democratic leaders, some cloak-and-dagger operations of the past, such as the 1978 assassination of Bulgarian writer and defector Georgi Markov, are being denounced and investigated. But nowhere have espionage agencies been totally disbanded.

It is not clear what is happening to East Germany's formidable foreign espionage department, but West Germans have expressed fears that East German spies will use the open borders to slip into the country.

West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble said that East Germany, for one, continues its foreign espionage activities.

East Germany's opposition has made the abolition of the secret service the top issue in the current opposition-government talks in the run-up to May 6 elections.

In Washington, CIA chief William Webster said in a speech Nov 29, when only Romania was still untouched by reform, that Soviet bloc espionage had increased.

Bush prefers career diplomats as envoys: official

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (AP): Career diplomats got two-thirds of the ambassadorships during President George Bush's first year and are likely to receive almost all the embassy openings for the rest of his term, the White House personnel director says.

Charles G. Utemeyer said yesterday that despite criticism from Democrats about ambassadorships being awarded as plums to the Republican Party's biggest benefactors, Bush has achieved his goal of putting diplomatic newcomers in no more than one-third of the US embassies.

From now on, "close to 100 per cent" of ambassadorial appointments will go to career foreign service officers, Utemeyer said in an interview.

"Henceforth, for the rest of the first Bush term, I expect very, very few non-career nominations," he said.

By Utemeyer's count, 97 of the 145 ambassadorships have gone to career diplomats, or 67 per cent. Ninety-three are already in place, one is awaiting Senate confirmation and three are still getting cleared before they are formally nominated.

Forty-eight ambassadorships have gone or will go to non-career people: 42 have been confirmed, two are awaiting Senate confirmation and four are in the White House clearance process. One of Bush's appointees, Ruth Washington, the ambassador to Gambia, was killed Saturday in an auto accident in New York state.

College freshmen mix liberal, conservative views

Poll finds a growing tendency towards political activism

WASHINGTON, Jan 22, (UPI): Increasing numbers of US college freshmen support legal abortion and stricter environmental laws but their views on crime and drug use are becoming more conservative, a national survey showed yesterday.

The poll of more than 200,000 freshmen in 1989 by the American Council on Education also found a growing tendency toward political activism and a decline in the number of freshmen interested in a business career.

The number of students saying they had earned a varsity letter in sports reached an all-time high, while fewer freshmen reported doing outside reading or visiting an art gallery or a museum.

One dramatic finding of the survey was an increase in support for legal abortion. Support had remained stable between 53 per cent and 59 per cent since 1977, but it jumped from 57 per cent in 1988 to 64.7 per cent in 1989.

"An abrupt change in student attitudes of this magnitude in just one year is most unusual," said Alexander Astin, a UCLA education professor who directed the 24th annual survey. "It may well reflect the students' growing concern about the current supreme court's position."

For the fifth consecutive year, concern about the environment grew, with 86.3 per cent saying the federal government is not doing enough to control pollution, compared with 83.9 per cent in 1988 and 80.9 per cent in 1987.

Support for National Health Care rose to 75.8 per cent from 60.5 per cent three years before, while support for laws banning homosexual behaviour fell to 45.4 per cent in 1989 from 49 per cent in 1988 and 53.1 per cent in 1987.

Student support for raising taxes to reduce the federal deficit rose to 28.8 per cent, compared with 22.8 per cent in 1985. The percentage favouring increased

defence spending fell to 24.5 per cent, compared with 38.8 per cent in 1982.

But the students took more conservative positions on crime and the use of drugs and alcohol. Only 21.3 per cent opposed the death penalty, for example, compared with 23 per cent in 1988 and 57.6 per cent in 1971.

In a question asked for the first time in 1989, 78.2 per cent of students endorsed greater efforts by the government to control handguns.

The percentage of students who wanted marijuana legalised fell to an all-time low of 16.7 per cent, down from 52.9 per cent in 1977. The percentage agreeing that employers should be able to require drug testing for employees and job applicants rose from 71 per cent in 1988 to 77.8 per cent last year.

Some 60.3 per cent of the freshmen said they drank beer, down from 65.3 per cent in 1988 and 75.2 per cent in 1981. The

percentage who said they drank wine or alcohol fell to 60.7 per cent from 66.7 per cent in 1988 and the percentage who reported taking tranquilisers hit an all-time low of 1.7 per cent, compared with 9.9 per cent in 1967.

"While student attitudes seem to be moving a 'conservative' direction on the issues of drugs and crime, their views on other issues are changing in a decidedly 'liberal' direction," Astin said.

The share of freshmen who said they took part in an organised demonstration in the year before college jumped to 36.7 per cent, higher than in the late 1960s. The percentage who said there was a very good chance they would protest in college hit an all-time high of 63.3 per cent, up from 4.7 per cent in 1967.

The percentage saying that their major goals included influencing the political structure also reached a record high of 19.9 per cent.



Burt (left) greets Soviet Ambassador Yuri Nazarkin at the start of arms talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arms talks resume amid renewed confidence

GENEVA, Jan 23, (AP): US and Soviet arms negotiators resumed talks yesterday voicing renewed confidence they will meet the Malta summit goal of completing a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty before the end of the year.

Round 13 of the 5-year-old negotiations on long range nuclear arms and space weapons began with a meeting between the heads of the delegations, Richard Burt and Yuri Nazarkin, to discuss the programme of the closed-door talks.

A joint statement said both men hope "it will be possible during his round to make substantial progress on those issues where differences remain." The upbeat note was underlined by the signing of a new agreement allowing both sides for the first

time to inspect each other's nuclear warheads on a trial basis. The trial inspections are intended to show procedures officials hope to use to make sure the number of warheads on each missile does not exceed the number assigned under the Start treaty.

"It's a good way to start," Burt told reporters after the 35-minute meeting. Nazarkin nodded and stressed that it was already the fourth "trial measure" agreed upon by the negotiators.

The three earlier measures covered notification of manoeuvres, procedures to identify bombers carrying air launched Cruise Missiles, or ALCMS, and provisions for each side to show how they identify the other's missiles.

The Start treaty is intended to cut by 30 to 50 per

cent the number of land-, and- and sea-based missiles with which each superpower can strike the other. Both sides have already agreed on lowered ceilings of 1,600 delivery vehicles — missiles and bombers — and 6,000 nuclear warheads.

US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed at Malta that all major outstanding issues should be resolved by their next summit in June and that the Start treaty should be signed before the end of 1990.

When asked whether the negotiators felt under pressure, Burt replied, "it's constructive pressure." The United States has decided to delay further negotiations on limiting nuclear testing once two treaties now being discussed by Washington and

Moscow are ratified by the Senate, the State Department said yesterday.

The position is a change in policy likely to anger the Soviet Union and arms control advocates worldwide.

In previous official statements of policy, the United States had promised that once the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosion treaty were ratified, "we will immediately propose negotiations on ways to implement a step-by-step parallel programme ... of limiting and ultimately ending nuclear testing."

But a State Department spokeswoman, Nancy Beck, said new negotiations would be delayed for an indefinite period.

Talks open to avoid forced repatriation

US opposes: Britain adamant on boat people

GENEVA, Jan 23, (UPI): Involved nations began two days of talks today on alternatives to Britain's declared intention to forcibly send back thousands of Vietnamese boat people crowding Hong Kong camps.

The United States said it remains opposed to British policy because there are still no assurances that repatriated refugees will be fairly treated.

"Our position is still against forced repatriation until the situation in Vietnam changes," said a spokesman for the US delegation, led by Robert Funseth, assistant deputy secretary of state for refugee affairs. "Conditions in Vietnam still preclude fair treatment of returning refugees," the spokesman said.

The two-day meeting involved the 15 nations represented on a steering committee established under a "comprehensive plan of action" for Indochinese refugees agreed at a Geneva conference last summer.

Members comprise Asian countries of refugee origin and of first asylum plus the Western countries providing final resettlement possibilities.

About 10 additional nations were attending the Geneva meeting.

Last year's plan centred on encouraging the voluntary return of refugees and finding alternatives to forced repatriation, which violates basic principles of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Vietnam at the 1989 conference pledged not to discriminate against returning nationals — a promise hardly put to the test because of the small numbers agreeing to voluntary return.

Britain before Christmas caused a furor by an initial forced repatriation from Hong Kong of 51 boat people.

Thorwald Stoltenberg of Norway, who became high commissioner for refugees just one week ago told the meeting that "the preservation of the principle and practice of first asylum" remains the plan's "fundamental objective."

"We are fully aware of the heavy burden that the Indochinese influx has imposed on asylum states in the past 15 years," Stoltenberg said. "The continued generous granting of temporary refuge to new arrivals has been a most encouraging commitment in these circumstances."

"Having said so I must, however, express serious concern at the continuing reports of denial of refuge in the region," he said without naming any specific countries.

Bombs go off on 8 trains in Tokyo area

TOKYO, Jan 23, (AP): Time bombs believed set by leftist radicals exploded almost simultaneously on eight trains in the Tokyo area early today, but no injuries were reported, police said.

A metropolitan police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosions, all small, damaged seats on the trains.

He declined to discuss further details, but Kyodo news service reported that Japan's best-known radical group, the Chukaku-Ha (middle core faction), claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Kyodo said that in a statement sent to news media, the group declared "unlimited war" against plans for the formal coronation of Emperor Akihito in November and for expansion of Tokyo's International Airport.

Chiang won't risk running for VP

TAIPEI, Jan 23, (AP): Chiang Wego, son of the late Chiang Kai-Shek, says he does not intend to run for vice president despite urging from the ruling Nationalist Party's conservative old guard, a report said today.

The liberal Independence Morning Post quoted Chiang Wego, 74, as saying "our entire family's reputation would be ruined" if he should try but fail to win the post.

Chiang Wego, whose father led the nationalist government to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to communist forces on the Chinese mainland, has been an army general and now is secretary-general of the National Security Council.

Kaifu to call general polls

Popularity down

TOKYO, Jan 23, (UPI): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu prepared today to dissolve the powerful lower house of parliament and call general elections next month amid poor popularity rating for his administration.

Kaifu, 58, called on Emperor Akihito today to report on his recent tour of both Western and Eastern Europe and his resolve to dissolve the lower house and hold general elections, government sources said.

A nation-wide opinion survey conducted last weekend showed that public support for Kaifu's administration improved slightly over the past month but was outclassed by the non-support rate, the national daily Asahi Shimbun reported today.

The daily said the support rate stood at 37 per cent, up from 35 per cent in December, against the non-support rate of 41 per cent, up from 40 per cent.

The paper said public support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party stood at 48 per cent, compared with 30 per cent for the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party.

Political sources said the LDP and opposition parties formally agreed to dissolve the lower house tomorrow afternoon after voting for three pending bills, including government subsidies to farmers.

The government will proclaim on Feb 3 that the election will be

Mongolia declares first local elections

Popularity down

EAST BERLIN, Jan 23, (Reuters): The Mongolian Communist Party, facing unprecedented popular pressure to reform, has for the first time promised elections for local party posts, the official East German News Agency ADN said today.

ADN, reporting from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, said the party newspaper Uuden had announced town and district elections for the third quarter of the 1990.

Up to now Mongolia's Stalinist leadership has not permitted competition for party posts.

"Local party leaders are preparing for any changes that might follow and have been ordered to heed all wishes and suggestions from their members," the ADN report said.

ADN said the politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had decided to hold elections before its 20th party congress.

The report was from ADN correspondent Hugo Kroepelien, one of only a handful of foreign journalists based permanently in Mongolia. He speaks Mongolian and is considered an authority on the country in his native East Germany.

Yesterday the Mngnialian Democratic Association, a fledgling reform group demanding an end to the country's 69-year-old communist system, predicted that democracy would take root this year.

Commenting on the group's demands for the first time, a government spokesman told foreign journalists that the ruling Communist party could "envisage a multi-party system."

Mongolia is a vast land of rolling steppes sandwiched between China and the Soviet Union. Home to just over two million people, it is the world's second oldest communist country and remains closely allied to the Soviet Union.

But the winds of change that toppled hard-line communist rulers across Moscow's Eastern European allies have now reached this remote land.

The Democratic Association has staged four unofficial demonstrations in Ulan Bator since early December. A statue of former Soviet leader Josef Stalin was removed last week from a city street.

The Vietnamese-installed government is opposed by a three-party res-



Jakarta streets flooded

A young mother helps her little daughter across a flooded street in Jakarta's residential area on Jan 23. Floods have swept some parts of Indonesian

islands following heavy rains recently. (Reuters wirephoto)

Missiles, hurdle to E-W detente

VIENNA, Jan 23, (AP): Despite better relations between the two superpowers, the future is clouded by growing capability of states to produce ballistic missiles, a US Army general warned yesterday.

Gen. John D. Robinson, speaking at an unusual gathering of top East-West military leaders, also said terrorism and drug trafficking are prime concerns.

The future, Robinson told the group, holds a "strategic environment even more complex than that of the last 45 years."

The general said some intelligence experts predict that by the year 2000, some 15 or more countries will have the capacity to produce and launch ballistic missiles. He also pointed to the dangers of "indiscriminate use" of chemical weapons.

"The proliferation of nuclear technology, too, should trouble everyone," he said.

While hailing improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, Robinson said some global trends "are not so positive."

The meeting, attended by top military officers from 35 nations, opened Jan 16. It is part of a series of steps by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Warsaw Pact and neutral nations aimed at easing military tensions in Europe.

Robinson is the director of force structure resource planning and assessment at the joint staff directorate.

Last week, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, the top US military officer, addressed the gathering.

The government yesterday presented a bill to Parliament calling for a six-month extension on the May deadline for the United States to dismantle its military installations in Greece.

Under the terms of a defence accord that expired in December 1988, the United States has until May 21 to remove personnel, property and material from four major bases and several smaller installations unless a new agreement is reached.

The proposed new deadline for dismantling the bases is Nov 21.

The bill, signed by Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras and Defence Minister Tzannis Tzannetakis, is scheduled to be debated by a parliamentary committee today.

It will then be presented to a full parliamentary session for debate and a vote.

The Conservative and Socialist parties that support Premier Xenophon Zolotas' three-party administration decided last month to grant the six-month extension requested by the United States so that negotiations on a new defence pact could continue.

The planned US testing today of an unarmed cruise missile over Canada's northern territories will be virtually ignored by peace and environmental groups, a spokesman for the Toronto-based Greenpeace said yesterday.

"We have no plans for action against it," Greenpeace spokesman David Croft said. "The issue is by no means dead, but we are concentrating on other things."

World's tallest man dies

Gabriel Estavo Mondlane, reportedly the tallest man in the world at more than 8 feet, has died of injuries sustained when he accidentally fell down in the backyard of his Maputo home, the state-run daily Noticias reported Tuesday. He was 45.

Mondlane, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the tallest living man in the world at 8 feet, 3/4 inches (245.7 cm) died Sunday, said Noticias, which estimated his height at 2.7 metres (9 feet).

Known in Mozambique as the "Giant of Mandlakazi" after his birthplace in the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, Mondlane fell in his backyard Sunday and hit his head violently on the concrete patio, Noticias said.

It said he is survived by a wife and a 14-year-old son. (UPI)

Commuters block railroad

Angry commuters clashed with riot police Monday after hundreds of rail travellers blocked a busy suburban line for more than six hours to protest delays caused by



Zappa meets Havel

American rock star Frank Zappa had talks on Monday with Czechoslovakia's playwright President Václav Havel.

Czechoslovakia's CTK news agency said Zappa, whose music combines jazz and pop with political satire, told Havel of his plans to shoot a film about Czechoslovakia for the US television group financial News Network.

Zappa, 49, also expressed a willingness to help Czechoslovakia financially, CTK added. (Reuters wirephoto)

Striking engineers in Oeiras, Portugal

No injuries were reported. Protesters claimed the state-owned Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (CP) railroad company failed to provide promised Sunday service on the line during the strike.

Police estimated up to 4,000 people took part in the protest, which began just before 9 am (0900 GMT) when rush-hour trains failed to pick up Lisbon-bound passengers in this suburban station 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) west of the capital. (AP)

Parcel full of cash found

A bomb squad called to defuse a suspicious parcel outside a Spanish Marquis's home found it contained three million pesetas (\$27,000) neatly wrapped in a shoebox, police said on Monday in Seville, Spain.

There was no word on who left the mysterious gift at the door of Luis Gonzaga, Marquis of Iruin, in Jerez, 80 km (50 miles) south of Seville. (Reuters)

Rumor is dead

Mariano Rumor, a former five-time Christian Democrat premier, died of a heart attack at age 74, it was reported on Tuesday.

Rumor led coalition governments in the tumultuous period of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Italy was wracked by student protests, labour unrest, and rightist and leftist terrorism.

A senator at the time of his death, the former secretary of the dominant Christian Democrats died late Monday night in his native city of Vicenza, the Rai state network reported.

His political career began when he joined a Roman Catholic organisation critical of Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. (AP)

Boy electrocuted in bathtub

A 5-year-old boy was electrocuted Monday when his baby brother dropped their mother's hair dryer in his bath, police said in Sydney, Australia.

Brendan Good died instantly when the blow dryer short-circuited, electrifying the water, Constable Gary Plunkett said.

He said Karen Good had placed her son in the bathtub, with his baby brother Peter, 23 months, watching, and went down stairs to attend to some chores Monday night at their home in the Sydney suburb of Bradbury.

When she called out and received no answer she rushed upstairs to find Brendan floating face-up in the bath.

Cambodian rebels cut main govt supply lines

Vietnam and Phnom Penh may be forced into flexibility

BANGKOK, Jan 23, (AP): Cambodian guerrillas have cut parts of main government supply lines from the interior of the country to battlefields in the west, a Thai military spokesman said today.

He confirmed guerrilla claims to have cut parts of route 5 and route 6, which run the length of the country from Phnom Penh to the western border with Thailand, and a rail line linking Pursat, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

The spokesman, Rear Adm. Kraichit Sinsombat, spoke at a news conference briefing reporters on the past month of guerrilla activities.

The Vietnamese-installed government is opposed by a three-party res-

istance coalition made up of the communist Khmer Rouge, the non-communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The guerrillas have reported making major gains since late September, when Vietnam made what it called the withdrawal of its last troops from the country.

The past month of victories, Kraichit said, could pressure Vietnam and the Cambodian government into greater flexibility in negotiating an end to the war.

Government forces now were concentrating on securing the most important cities, he said.

Kraichit said stepped up Khmer

Rouge attacks on Route 56, in western Pursat province near the Thai border, forced Phnom Penh forces to retreat deeper into the country and concentrate on protecting the provincial capital.

Kraichit said the guerrillas also have stepped up fighting in Sisophon district, site of a government military operations centre, and in Battambang province. They are moving into Siem Reap province, particularly near Angkor Wat, a temple complex in what was the capital of a Cambodian empire in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The resistance also has increased attacks in the north and central parts

of Cambodia and seized areas in six districts in the central province of Kompong Thom, he said.

Kraichit said the Khmer Rouge, the largest guerrilla group, has hit targets including an airport in a suburb of Battambang town, the capital of the province of the same name and the country's second-largest city.

The Khmer Rouge has claimed a major shelling attack on the town in early January and said it was continuing strikes on supply routes to the town.

Negotiations on ending the war and forming an interim government pending national elections have bogged down over the question of the

future role of the Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of people when it ruled Cambodia in 1975-78.

Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preventing Cambodian refugees from going to a UN camp and instead moving them toward a border area that was heavily shelled in the past, international relief officials said today.

Bursts of small arms fire erupted in the Borei camp shortly after UN trucks began arriving there yesterday to take refugees to the site K camp, said Patrick Van de Velde, deputy director of the UN border relief operation. That prompted the trucks to wait outside the camp.



Two Khmer Rouge rebels sit on a pile of artillery shells at Phnom Malai. (Reuters wirephoto)

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

INTERNATIONAL

Reform groups may join cabinet

EAST BERLIN, Jan 22, (AP) — Communist Premier Hans Modrow agreed today to rebuild the East German government to include pro-democracy groups after the leader of one of the main reform forces acknowledged the need for immediate action.

Modrow and opposition leaders also showed rare agreement in denouncing a report by the mass-circulation West German newspaper Bild that army and secret police agents were planning a coup in East Germany.

"I appeal to the representatives of the new parties at the round table... to enter the government as cabinet members in order to form a broad coalition," Modrow said today at the weekly negotiations between the government and more than a dozen fledgling parties and reform movements.

Modrow proposed a meeting Wednesday to consider a new cabinet.

"It is my intention to give a new quality to our co-operation," Modrow said during the nationally televised session. "Our expectation of our constructive advice underscores this intention."

Opposition groups previously had indicated they would take part in running the government only if they were offered ministerial posts.

In the current 27-member cabinet, communists hold 16 posts, dominating partners that in any case have long been allies. The Liberal Democrats hold four seats, the Christian Democrats three, and the National Democrats and the Farmers' Party two each.

Ibrahim Boehme of the increasingly influential Social Democratic Party said at the meeting that a coalition government was possible "if all parties and groups are prepared to enter the government on an emergency basis, without weeks-long negotiations."

East Germans are preparing for their first free elections on May 6. But broad differences between the communist-dominated government and opposition groups over an interim government has slowed the democratic transition and stalled measures to rescue the economy.

The communists' troubles were compounded by yesterday's announcement that its No. 2 official, deputy chairman Wolfgang Berghofer, had abandoned the party with an "urgent demand" for breakup of the once-omnipotent political force.

Berghofer's resignation coincided with ousted East German leader Egon Krenz' expulsion from the party. Berghofer, 46, is widely reported as interested in moving to the Social Democrats, although his resignation statement made no mention of that. Thirty-nine other members also resigned along with Berghofer.

Modrow today also announced the resignation of communist Finance Minister Uta Nickel, the target of a criminal probe into alleged financial irregularities. Ms Nickel has denied any wrongdoing.

The Hamburg-based Bild newspaper, in contending a coup was in the works, said a general strike could be used as the pretext for an armed takeover. Bild cited unidentified opposition sources.

"I must decisively reject as provocation a report in today's Bild newspaper," Modrow told communists, opposition leaders and others attending the ninth round of political negotiations.

Modrow also said he was convinced there were no plans for an opposition-led general strike, which Bild claimed was being prepared if the government does not make key concessions.

Wolfgang Schnur, a top official of the opposition Demokratische Aufbruch movement, called the Bild report a "horror story."

New Forum delegate Ingrid Koeppel said her group did not provide the newspaper with the information and it did not plan a general strike.

"However, we have said we accept a general strike as a means of last resort," Ms Koeppel said.

East Germany will close one sixth of its diplomatic missions this year because it cannot afford them, the Foreign Ministry said today.

Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer told round-table talks between government and opposition that 18 embassies and consulates would close, 16 of them in the Third World.

The planned closures will affect only states with which East Germany has only very limited diplomatic relations. Fischer's deputy Heinz-Dieter Winter told the East German daily Neue Zeit.

Romanian princesses return

BUCHAREST, Jan 22, (AP) — Two daughters of exiled King Michael of Romania said yesterday they felt they had come home, though they were seeing Romania for the first time.

Princesses Margarita, 40, and Sophie, 32, were met at the airport on Thursday by a group of Romanians shouting "Long live the king."

"I didn't know what to expect. ... We were Romanians coming home — that's the one thing that struck me," Margarita said at a news conference yesterday.

"I remember seeing the country covered in snow from the airplane window... and there was the realization that at last we'd come home," Sophie said.

King Michael, who was forced into exile by Romania's communist government in 1947, has been mentioned as a possible leader again following last month's execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

But he is virtually unknown to many young Romanians, who were at the forefront of the revolution that toppled

Eighty soldiers shot Ceausescu

PARIS, Jan 22, (Reuters) — Romanian soldiers were so keen to execute dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that all 80 on firing squad duty started shooting after their officer asked only five to step forward, a leading Romanian official was quoted as saying today.

Silviu Brucan also told the French daily Le Figaro that the bodies of Ceausescu and his wife Elena, executed at the same time, were found to have 120 bullet wounds.

"The officer in charge of the firing squad asked

thing to help the Romanian people. She now lives with her father in Geneva, where Sophie is an artist.

Michael has five daughters, all born in exile.

When a reporter asked whether the princesses had come to Romania to reclaim the king's property, which was confiscated by the communists, Margarita hesitated.

"My father... is a democrat, a patriot. How can you say I want property back?" she said.

Sophie described her 67-year-old father as "an amputated soul." Margarita said his main concern now is to serve the people, whether by helping to obtain scalpels for a local hospital or mobilizing international support for Romania's long-term development.

"There's been a huge explosion in this country and the bits have to be put together again," she said. "It's very important that a democratic debate starts."



A Mongolian flag flies over thousands of protesters at Ulan Bator. (Reuters wirephoto)



Under a portrait of Karl Marx, Mongolian Democratic Union leaders discuss their plans on ending one party communist rule.

5,000 take to the streets

Mongolians defy ban

BEIJING, Jan 22, (AP) — Mongolian reformers defied a ban on unauthorized demonstrations and took to the streets of the capital for the second straight weekend, in a rally that drew 5,000 people, a Western source said today.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police made no attempt to break up the rally in the central square of Ulan Bator despite the ban on street gatherings imposed last Thursday.

The rally, organized by the Mongolian Democratic Union, lasted nearly two hours in temperatures hovering around -23 Celsius (-9 Fahrenheit), said the source, who came to Beijing today from Ulan Bator.

The union, which claims 70,000 supporters, has presented the first open organized opposition to a government ruled by the Communist Party since 1921, longer than any other country outside Mongolia's patron state, the Soviet Union.

The group organized two small demonstrations in December and another on Jan 14 that drew about 5,000 people. It had official permission for all three of those gatherings.

So far, both sides appear to be trying to avoid a confrontation, although the government's ban on demonstrations and the group's defiance of the ban may have hardened their adversarial positions.

At yesterday's demonstration, people carried banners reading, "If people are rich, the Mongolian nation will be rich," and calling for an end to special privileges for officials.

One banner written in English read, "We support perestroika and glasnost," the Soviet words for economic reform and opening.

Another group calling itself the Democratic Socialist Movement and saying it was more radical than the MDU passed out fliers calling for a free press, a multiparty political system, adherence to the

UN declaration on human rights, more economic independence and protection of the national culture.

Mongolia's economy and culture long have been dominated by the Soviet Union, to the extent that the Russian Cyrillic alphabet was officially adopted in 1946 and the traditional Mongolian script banned until about five years ago.

Many of Mongolia's two million people, dispersed across grasslands the size of western Europe, still have deep links to their herdsman traditions, and what little industry the nation has developed almost entirely with Soviet or East European aid.

The leader of the MDU, Sanjasur Zorig, speaking at a news conference after the rally, did not rule out confrontation with the government but said his group puts "great hopes on the sober minds" of government leaders.

He said his group regards itself as a guarantor for developing and deepening democracy in Mongolia and that it stands for a multiparty political system.

Zorig blamed Mongolia's low level of economic development on central controls over the economy and state ownership of property.

There also is growing nationalism, diplomats said. Among movement demands have been the removal of two statues in Ulan Bator of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin — one has already been pulled down — and a reappraisal of the 13th century warrior leader Genghis Khan.

"Genghis Khan was made a bad guy under the Soviets," a diplomat said. "Now the academics and the newspapers are rehabilitating him, and they want it to be official."

The government response has been moderate. Communist Party officials met last week with Democratic Union leaders and reportedly have agreed to further talks.



An Azeri youth raises a banner during a protest march in one of the main street in Istanbul against the Soviet military action in Azerbaijan. Banner reads 'We condemn the bloody perestroika in Azerbaijan.' (Reuters wirephoto)

4 face genocide charge in Romania

BUCHAREST, Jan 22, (Reuters) — The first of the communist leaders who helped keep deposed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in power for 24 years are to be charged with complicity in genocide.

The four top officials named by the prosecutor general are Tudor Postelnicu, who headed the feared Securitate secret police, Emil Boba, his right-hand man, Ion Dima, a former deputy prime minister, and Manea Manescu, a vice-president.

After the interim government revised a decree introducing the death penalty for Ceausescu's collaborators, the accused know they will be spared execution, but they still face extended sentences in prison with hard labour.

The death penalty was abolished on Jan. 1, only days after Ceausescu and his wife Elena, the first deputy prime minister, were shot after a summary trial.

Under Romanian law the four accused have a minimum three days to study the charges before their first court appearance.

Prosecutor General George Bogdan told Reuters the trials would not begin before next Friday.

The National Salvation Front (NSF) government accuses the former regime of killing up to 10,000 people in its desperate fight to retain power.

Although this figure is increasingly disputed, responsibility for the deaths of the regime's opponents forms the basis of the charges against the four.

But in the Western city of Timisoara, where the anti-Ceausescu uprising began on Dec 17, the exact toll of victims is now in question.

First reports said up to 4,000 people might have been killed there by the Securitate secret police.

But Radu Motica, the new chief of police appointed by the NSF in Timisoara, has said the confirmed figure appeared to be little more than 100.

His remarks have provoked a furor and sporadic street protests among local people for whom the martyrdom of the city's residents has become a revolutionary article of faith.

Students gathered in central Bucharest yesterday to demand an end to compulsory politics classes and to mourn those who died in last month's uprising against Ceausescu.

"Down with communism" and "down with the Securitate," chanted the students.

One banner read "down with the new censorship," a reference to alleged domination of the new media by the National Salvation Front government which now runs the country.

The demonstrations were organized by the newly formed League of Students, which aims to revitalize Romanian education after more than 40 years of communist authority.

The students held a one-minute silence to mourn those who died in the anti-Ceausescu uprising in late December.



The mangled wreck of a car crushed under a tank when Soviet army troops entered Baku lies across a street. (Reuters wirephoto)

Turkey offers medical help

ANKARA, Jan 22, (Reuters) — Turkey has told the Soviet Union it is ready to send medical aid to Azerbaijan where at least 62 people have died in clashes between nationalists and Soviet troops in Baku, a senior official said today.

"The offer concerns solely medical aid. No other form of aid has been considered," the Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

"It was made to the Soviet ambassador in Ankara at a late Sunday meeting requested by Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz to receive information on the situation in Baku," the official who declined to be named said.

"There has been no reply to the offer and Turkey has had no separate contacts with Azerbaijani authorities," he said.

The meeting with Soviet envoy Albert Cherniaev was the second sought by Yilmaz on the issue last week.

The Azerbaijani autonomous region of Nakhichevan, squeezed between eastern Turkey and the Soviet Republic of Armenia, declared "full independence" on Saturday and appealed for help from Turkey, Iran and other nations.

The official dismissed Turkish press reports that many Azerbaijanis in Nakhichevan were fleeing from Armenian attacks towards the Turkish border as well as the frontier with Iran.

"We only have a 12-km (eight-mile) border with Nakhichevan and we believe that is heavily guarded by troops. It does not seem possible," he said.

Liberal daily Milliyet in a report from Moscow, said rocket and artillery fire into Nakhichevan on Sunday from the Armenian regions of Mervin and Masis, forced many Azerbaijanis to flee towards the Turkish and Iranian borders.

Yilmaz meets Soviet ambassador

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Nato is worried

Clearing way for June summit

Start talks begin

BRUSSELS, Jan 22, (Reuters) — Far from voicing jubilation and triumph, Nato is worried about the growing demands in Eastern Europe for Soviet troops to go home.

"It could be bad news for us if the Soviets get kicked out of Eastern Europe unceremoniously," said one official at the alliance's Brussels headquarters, who asked not to be identified. "That now looks a distinct possibility."

A hasty withdrawal by Moscow, under pressure from people in its once-submissive Warsaw Pact allies, could push the orderly process of arms control off the rails, Nato diplomats say. It could destroy any remaining coherence that the Warsaw Pact has, depriving the West of a stable negotiating partner.

But fears are also being voiced within the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) that if Soviet forces go home quickly, the Americans may be asked to do the same.

"If the Soviets agree to go quietly, it will be much harder for us to convince people in the West that US troops should stay," said one diplomat.

Nato, which has relied on a massive US military presence in Western Europe for more than 40 years, argues that it needs to keep American forces here because of the difficulty of reinforcement across the Atlantic in time of crisis.

Czechoslovakia has already told Moscow its wants all Soviet troops out by the end of the year, while Hungary has said they must go by 1991 at the latest.

Last week, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa called on the Soviet Union to remove all its troops from Poland by the end of the year — although the government

later said he was expressing his own views and that the issue would not be raised.

Nato diplomats think public pressure for Moscow to withdraw its 380,000 troops in East Germany, its biggest foreign contingent, will grow after elections there in May.

The Soviet Union has started removing some troops unilaterally from Eastern Europe, so far pulling out more than 38,000 men, and has said it would like to bring some all forces stationed abroad by the year 2000.

But in an interview last week, Nato's supreme allied commander in Europe, US General John Galvin, voiced the alliance's strong opposition to making any reciprocal unilateral cuts.

He said force reductions should occur only under "a treaty signed on the dotted line, not reversible, (and) verifiable."

In similar spirit, Nato rejected a call from East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi earlier this month for the withdrawal of foreign troops stationed in the two German states — the frontline for both military blocs.

Nato is keen to avoid bilateral or unilateral agreements outside the framework of 23-nation Vienna talks on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), which the West hopes to complete by the end of the year.

Irreconcilable differences between rivals prompt call for split in Yugoslav party

BELGRADE, Jan 22, (AP) — Bitter debate over the fate of the Communist Party continued at a key congress today as one faction called for a formal split, citing irreconcilable differences between liberals and hardliners.

A formal plenary session was expected to begin today on amendments to a key reform document that in its draft form declares the party's willingness to relinquish its monopoly on power.

Five delegates have proposed that the party split into a reform-oriented socialist party and a traditional communist party.

They want the key reform document to declare the party's intention to divide in two, according to the Vec-

erj Novosti daily.

Today delegate Slobodan Lang called for all those interested in creating a socialist party to meet and discuss such a move.

Several delegates had called during the course of debate for the party to transform itself into a socialist party embracing Western European ideals.

Delegates from the liberal northern Republic of Slovenia yesterday said the party must become a loose coalition of regional party bodies from the six republics and two provinces to allow them greater decision-making and reduce central control.

Slovenian party leader Ciril Ribicic said the party

should become "an organisation of independent and free republican communists."

But delegate Branko Horvat, leader of a new union of Yugoslavs for democratic initiative, suggested it would be better for the party to divide into two, rather than eight.

He charged that the party had "destroyed unity" in the country and "may be fatally discredited socialism."

He said in its present form the party could be defined as consisting of "democratic socialists" and "non-democratic authoritarians."

The disagreements within the party over the pace of reform have been primarily carried out by liberal Slovenia and the reform-resistant largest state of Serbia.

Slovenia has long tolerated a degree of pluralism and was the first republic to announce it would hold free multiparty elections in April.

Serbia, under its President Slobodan Milosevic, has staunchly opposed the party relinquishing its hold on power. While it began to talk about reform in the weeks leading up to the congress, it has showed reluctance to implement broad changes.

While Slovenia wanted to push through the reform document quickly to show the party's commitment to change, Serbian hardliners wanted it discussed in a package with other resolutions, apparently hoping to lessen its impact.

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (Reuters) — Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel will visit Moscow and Washington in the next few weeks to press for Soviet and US troop withdrawals from Europe, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

In an interview with the Post, Havel declined to disclose details of what he called a complex of disarmament initiatives that he planned to put before the superpowers.

Burglaries on the rise in Kuwait City

Shop owners demand more protection

BURGLARIES in the recent past have taken alarming proportions and the spate of robberies involving jewellery shops, electronic stores, banks, money exchange shops and even individuals have been mugged.

In their bid to decamp with their loot, burglars have resorted to state-of-the-art tools, which include oxy-acetylene burners, safe cracking equipment and master keys. There have been instances where in failing with these tools, burglars have resorted to decamping with the safe itself which weighed 300 kilograms.

Some shop owners have installed expensive alarm devices, others closed-circuit television and others have employed security guards — all costing them financial overheads. These extra financial costs have then to be added to the cost of goods which have to be borne by customers.

There has been a heightened demand from these owners for increasing security measures to prevent such crimes from occurring.

A local daily interviewed a number of victims to obtain a first hand report of such burglaries.

Adnan Jabri, owner of a restaurant at Jabra Street said that on the morning of Nov 21, last year, he opened his shop as usual and was surprised to find it in disarray and the safe box missing. He informed the police that he recalled three youths who had visited the restaurant three days prior to the incident. He said they were acting in a suspicious manner. He claimed that the safe contained KD1000 and a number of documents.

Security men concluded that the thieves had entered through a back door of the restaurant.

Fortune

Nazaret Yaqoob, the owner of a jewellery and gold shop in Jabra Street said that his shop was recently robbed of valuables estimated at KD40,000 — his entire fortune. He said that security personnel will be successful in apprehending the culprits and recovering his stolen items.

Hussain Faraj, the owner of a money exchange shop at Dujail Souq said that his shop was robbed two months ago. He said that the thieves broke through the main building entrance and burgled ten shops on the same night.

He said that due to the thickness of the steel vault, the thieves could not decamp with the main loot, but stole some foreign currency which was on display. One of the security guards working at the building tried to chase the robbers, but could not apprehend them due to old age.

After the robbery he said, he has installed security alarms and steel doors. After short period of time from the incident involving the burglary of his shop, 16 other shops were robbed in the adjacent building. He added that all shop owners are now thinking of banding together and ordering private security guards.

Cutting through

Mehyar Hussain Ali, the owner of a jewellery shop said that one morning when he opened his shop, he was aghast to see

that the safe was practically burnt. Security forces investigating said the robbers had used oxy-acetylene torches to cut through the safe but had failed. The thieves were subsequently arrested while trying to burglarise another shop.

Sadeq Maarafi, the owner of a jewellery shop states that his shop is located at a commercial complex which contains more than 40 similar shops which are all insured against robbery and therefore they are forced to put all of their jewellery inside their treasury boxes before leaving every night.

He demanded more security adding that police forces are not responsible for the security guards at the complex. He stressed that the shortage of security men and patrols at such complexes have attracted robbers. He hoped that the Ministry of Interior will hire well-trained security guards at these shops beside installing steel doors at co-operative societies entrances instead of the currently used automatic doors.

Zakat House to expand disbursement of charity

THE KUWAIT Zakat House, will expand its scope of dispensing Zakat money in a bid to step up its contribution to solving social problems, Abdul Qader Al Ojail, acting director-general of the house said and added that it aims at extending financial aid to people who had not previously applied for aid.

The house also generate and fund new projects to increase the number of beneficiaries, Ojail said in an interview with a local daily.

The decade of the nineties will witness the implementation of the aspirations of the nation on a well-studied plan to achieve the interim objectives of the Zakat Law, the official said.

Collection

Ojail added that applicants will be able to collect their Zakat on the same date of receiving their applications. The collection will be made possible by the use of a computer network and realising operations at all branches.

The house will pay maximum attention to providing aid to the needy by training them in sewing, design-making and other productive artistic business which would be tailored to make them productive and self-reliant.

Ojail said that the house was funding scientific studies aimed at determining the amount of money collected upon the application of the Zakat Law and would also seek to collect views from capitalists.

The house will also operate a new service under which Zakat money will be collected from all different locations in the country on a 24-hour basis. The house will release a special guide on Zakat-calculation while promoting the role of the media in better advertising its various charity-funded and social aid projects.

Appointment of pharmacists to be regulated

THE Minister of Planning and acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi is reportedly considering a new set of regulations for the appointment of pharmacists at the ministry.

A local daily has reported that there is considerable intention to regulate the appointment of pharmacists at hospitals and health centres, which among other things, pharmacists would have to have been born in Kuwait, where they completed their various stages, and that their fathers must have spent at least 15 years in the ministry or 25 years at a government agency.

He pointed out that no appointment of new pharmacists was currently possible for the lack of vacant grades, which would primarily be accorded to highly-qualified and long-experienced pharmacists once available.

Condition

The official said that a new set of conditions had been laid down for the appointment of fresh pharmacists at hospitals and health centres, which among other things, pharmacists would have to have been born in Kuwait, where they completed their various stages, and that their fathers must have spent at least 15 years in the ministry or 25 years at a government agency.

He pointed out that no appointment of new pharmacists was currently possible for the lack of vacant grades, which would primarily be accorded to highly-qualified and long-experienced pharmacists once available.



PR course for police officers

The third training course on public relations at the Police Officers Training Institute is being attended by 25 officers of different ranks with one from Kuwait's Ministry of Defence, one from Oman and three from Yemen Arab Republic.

The curriculum of the course focuses on how to present TV and Radio interviews, the preparation of programmes, handling public opinion polls and data analysis.

Computer virus

Gulf governments and businesses under threat

By John Lesniewski

COMPUTER viruses are news in the Gulf. The "Brain", "Jerusalem", "Ping Pong Ball", the "Aids Information Disk" and other viruses have invaded public and private computer systems. What are computer viruses, how do they work and how does one get rid of them. There are three types of miniature computer programmes which are called viruses: a bomb, a trojan horse or a worm. Experts disagree on exact terminology, but they do agree on the fact that viruses either act immediately or have a delayed action.

The first type is a bomb. A bomb acts immediately after entering the computer system. The programme must have been previously copied onto the floppy or hard disk as a COM, EXE or BAT file. When the computer is switched on, the infected disk loads the bomb into RAM and activates it. Once activated, it executes instructions which range from changing file contents, erasing all files, reformatting disks, changing CMOS memory, or displaying on the monitor little "Pac-Man" creatures or bouncing balls.

The second type is a trojan horse. The trojan horse enters the computer in the same manner as a bomb. However, it executes different instructions. Unlike a bomb which works immediately, a trojan horse is a delayed action programme. It is loaded into RAM as a TRS (Terminate and Stay Resident) utility. It stays in the background like "Sidekick" or other popular "hot key" utilities.

Only after a specified action occurs does the trojan horse activate itself. That action could be the occurrence of a selected date, or a specified sequence of key strokes, or the re-booting of the computer a certain number of times. Its destructive activities are very similar to a bomb's: it either corrupts files or hinders operation of the computer.

The third type of virus is a worm. It is loaded into RAM like a trojan horse and is activated by a delayed action. A worm normally does not destroy files, instead it slows down the computer's operation. A typical worm will cause the computer to continuously copy a file until the hard disk is too full to efficiently operate. Or, it will issue instructions to continuously check and re-check the addition of a number, the spelling of a word, or the availability of a file on the hard disk. A properly executed worm will gradually slow down a computer until it is no longer operable. At that point the hard disk must be formatted, losing most data.

A bomb, a trojan horse or a worm that cannot replicate itself is not a virus; that is, it will not spread to other computers by itself. A true virus can automatically copy itself onto floppy and hard disks and over modes, thus infecting any computer with which it comes in contact.

Few viruses begin as deliberate attempts to destroy computers or databases. Many viruses start as jokes or experiments. In 1988 an experimental virus at Internet in the US went out of control and in only a few days it had replicated itself in over 60,000 computers around the world. Many of Internet's customers, including the US Department of Defence immediately stopped using Internet's service. The reputed cost of Internet for this "experiment" was a loss of over \$100 million.

Computers only become infected with viruses when someone unknowingly or purposely loads a programme which contains the virus code. Most viruses are spread on floppy disks, usually floppy disks which contain pirated software. Very few viruses are spread on original software or through modems.

When an individual computer becomes infected by a virus, the simplest corrective method is to

reformat the hard disk. This procedure eliminates the virus from the hard disk but it also eliminates all software and data from the hard disk. The software must be reloaded from backed-up copies of original software diskettes, and not from pirated copies. Reloading pirated software will most likely re-introduce the virus and cause a repeat of the problem. Data files can be reloaded from back-up diskettes or back-up tapes. Trained users on stand-alone systems always back up data files on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The corrective action to reformat the hard disk and reload the software and data files can be performed in 4 to 5 hours.

A greater threat of computer viruses is to users of Local Area Networks, that is, computers which are linked by cables in order to share common hardware, software and data. Once a virus has spread through a network, it is very difficult to trace and eliminate. Networks do not spread viruses, rather, networks become contaminated with viruses. Once a virus infects a network's file server, it can very easily replicate itself in all computers on the network. By the time a virus is detected, it will most likely have made itself resident in each hard disk on the network. Cleansing a single infected computer on the network will not eliminate a network virus. To effectively remove the virus, every computer on the network must be systematically shut down, cleansed and certified to be virus free. Only then can the original non-pirated software be reloaded onto the network.

After the network has regained its integrity and the non-pirated software has been reloaded, the data files can be reloaded. Hopefully, all company databases were backed-up before the virus attacked, otherwise that information will be lost. Since a network database is one company's most valuable resources, it should be backed-up on a daily basis. The cost of losing the valuable database exceeds the costs of daily back-ups and routine virus check-ups, and definitely exceeds saving a few dinars through the use of pirated software.

There are trained professionals who use systematic procedures to detect and remove network viruses. After the network integrity has been re-established they will systematically reload the software and database. Depending on the network size, the correction process could take a trained professional from a couple of days to a week or longer.

If a virus does strike your company's network, it is better to immediately hiring professionals to minimize the risk of damage to your valuable database. In-house staff might try to rectify the problem by using their own randomly applied methods, but they may not entirely destroy the virus. In the mean time, the company's valuable database could be corrupted or totally erased.

The highest level of threat from computer virus is to government agencies. Around the world, specialist consultants are studying the impact of deliberate use of computer viruses to destroy vital infrastructures such as communication exchanges, power grids, security records, and so forth. Injecting a computer virus into a national resource is a serious crime and not simply a mistake from using pirated software. Government agencies are now enforcing tough new laws to counteract perpetrators of computer crime.

The best advice for computer users, whether a stand-alone or network user, is to avoid contracting a virus; by not using pirated software, by controlling access to your computers, and by creating and enforcing anti-virus procedures. And perhaps most important, just as humans must consult with professionals when a virus is contracted, so must a company or an agency turn to trained professionals when a computer virus is contracted.

Population census to be carried out in '95

By Jamil Ameen

THE assistant undersecretary for statistical affairs at the Ministry of Planning, Musaed Al-Ameen has told Seyassah that the next population census will be carried out in 1995, in line with the statistical law.

He said that the Central Statistical Office would perform a study aimed at determining the workforce — a research that would include providing estimated projections of population increases, based on the social status, educational level, age-categories, race and nationality.

He said that the office had endeavoured over the past years to overcome delays at the foreign trade statistical sector, reduce the time span separating the date of the availability of the statistical data and that of its actual publication.

Update

He also pointed out that the office had actually introduced special technology to step up the collection and publication of statistical data three years ago and that the office had even before that time started to use personal computers systems.

The office last year started also to operate a new technology by which all data stored on computers would constantly and regularly be updated, Ameen said. This technology was used to update the statistical encyclopaedic system and foreign trade data and would be used to update other data systems upon completion.

Ameen said that within the frame work of the massive development plan of the statistical sector, a new system for national calculations had been programmed to efficiently respond to a similar system used by the United Nations.

He added that National Calculations Division at the ministry was generating numerous bulletins and statistical economic reports to feed based system within the same period needed to generate this data in all countries of the world; namely three years.

Obstacles

Ameen stressed that major difficulties encountered in the line of work were the delay in receiving or sending data from foreign agencies, the lack of co-ordination between the ministry and other government ministries and departments as to the determination of the quality and type of data required.

He went on to say that the office had on a number of occasions attempted to sort out all these obstacles which entailed personal interviews with senior government officials, but all these efforts came to naught.

The minimum time span between one census and another was internationally agreed at 10 years, Ameen said. Although it is easier to collect field census data within a short time, the accuracy sought and factors involved in attaining precision by performing numerous research studies took long periods of time to complete.

The office would soon issue a number of statistical releases, which include a research on the workforce based on a sample study performed in March 1988, Ameen said.

Flag hoisting

A press release from the Indian Embassy has stated that a flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the Republic Day of India will be held in the chancery premises of the Embassy of India at 34, Istiglal Street on January 26, 1990, at 9.00 am. All Indians are cordially invited to attend.

Condoms may raise risk of breast cancer

Official circles discount study

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

DOCTORS at the University of North Carolina school of public health last month published a study claiming that the use of barrier contraceptives exposes women to twice the risk of a complication called pre-eclampsia during a subsequent pregnancy as those who use other birth control measures. Pre-eclampsia is a toxic pregnancy which can make the mother ill with high blood pressure and swelling because of an incompatibility between the mother's immune system and the developing foetus, doctors said.

In another study, carried out before the onslaught of the killer disease Aids, Dr Arne Gjorgov, currently with Kuwait's medical faculty, suggested that women who used condoms faced a risk of developing breast cancer which was about five times the risk of women who used other forms of contraception. Gjorgov, a Yugoslav epidemiologist who conducted his research at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, estimated that the non-use of condoms would reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the US by 50 per cent. The study earned him a doctoral degree at the school of public health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1978.

Discounted

Both studies have been received with reservations in official medical circles.

Aids experts in Britain and the US have dismissed studies that link the use of barrier contraceptives to the risk of breast cancer and toxic pregnancy saying they are baseless and will have no effect on Aids control campaigns that promote the use of condoms.

"These studies can be totally discounted. There is overwhelming scientific evidence and opinion to show that these claims are not sufficiently important to warrant a warning to the public," said Dr Mikesha Kapila, deputy director of Aids programme at Britain's Health Education Authority.

The Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, which funds Aids prevention campaigns that promote the use of condoms, said there is no conclusive evidence to show that condoms expose women to risks of toxic pregnancy and breast cancer.

"An isolated finding of a single study does not cause concern," spokeswoman Gayle Lloyd told

the Arab Times. Neither she nor Kapila believe that the public should be informed about these studies or that their condom promotion campaigns should be modified as a result of the research.

"The public has the right to be informed of the risks which are credible and considered important. Studies like these are without any foundation and will only cause anxiety," Kapila said. Gjorgov insists that the public should be informed of health hazards and says every avenue should be explored to reduce the dead body count of both, breast cancer and Aids victims.

Increase

"Evidence of the breast cancer - condom link has been presented in a public forum and no angry statement is a substitute for a critical appraisal of the findings. On the basis of these findings it was not difficult to predict an unfortunate increase in breast cancer incidence as it has been recorded since 1984," he added.

The epidemiologist appealed to married women, who he believes are less exposed to the risk of getting infected with Aids, to use other contraceptives than condoms. While he condones the use of condoms by groups at high risk of contracting Aids, he is against an indiscriminate and universal condom use as a barrier to the spread of Aids.

He insists further investigation is essential to confirm his findings but argues that lives can be lost unnecessarily unless the public is informed of the risk of long-term (marital) condom use before conclusive evidence on the issue is obtained. He said medical history is replete with examples of costly mistakes resulting from dismissive attitudes toward new ideas and research.

Explanations

Breast cancer is on the increase in the US. The highest rate ever recorded in 1985, the latest year for which figures were published by the National Cancer Institute. Breast cancer is responsible for more new cases of cancer and more cancer deaths among women than any other type, the report said. Cancer of the breast is being diagnosed in about 130,000 American women a year, and more than 40,000 women are dying from the disease annually.

Experts could not explain an increase in new cases and deaths from breast cancer among young and middle aged white women

ever since 1984 after a marked decline over more than a decade. But Gjorgov said it could be the result of a wider use of condoms following the introduction of Aids control programmes in the 1980s.

Last November Britain decided to drop its series of "condoms are hip" advertisements, that were to go on the air on Dec 1 as part of its £2 million "safe sex" campaign. But the decision was not prompted by any new research, Kapila said.

British press reports said it came after lobbying from pressure groups which argue that the threat of a heterosexual Aids epidemic is greatly exaggerated. The British government is understood to be sensitive to criticism that the government could be seen to be promoting casual sex by running the "condoms are hip" campaign.

Kapila said the campaign, now to be launched next month, will promote condoms in TV advertisements that will not be "very explicit". The two controversial studies rely on so called "semen factors" — lack of exposure to protective factors in the male semen — to explain the risks women are exposed to by using barrier contraceptives.

Doctors who studied toxic pregnancy said non-barrier contraceptives such as birth control pills, allow prior exposure to sperm and seminal fluid which contain antigens that help stop the mother's system rejecting foetal tissue. Women whose partners use barrier contraceptives such as condoms, which prevent live sperm from entering the uterus, run as much as a 60 per cent higher risk of a toxic pregnancy than those who use other methods.

Gjorgov, who interviewed more than 300 women has found that those who have used barrier contraceptive methods for extended periods may have a risk of developing breast cancer that is 40 to 50 times the risk of women who used other methods. He believes that the results of his study can be explained by the effects that certain biologically active substance, perhaps prostaglandins, in the human semen may have on the balance of hormones in woman's body. And the balance of these hormones in turn affects the risk of developing cancer, he explained. He is confident that further research will confirm his hypothesis and will lead to controlling and reducing the epidemic proportions of breast cancer.

Subbiyah will cover power needs until the year 2000

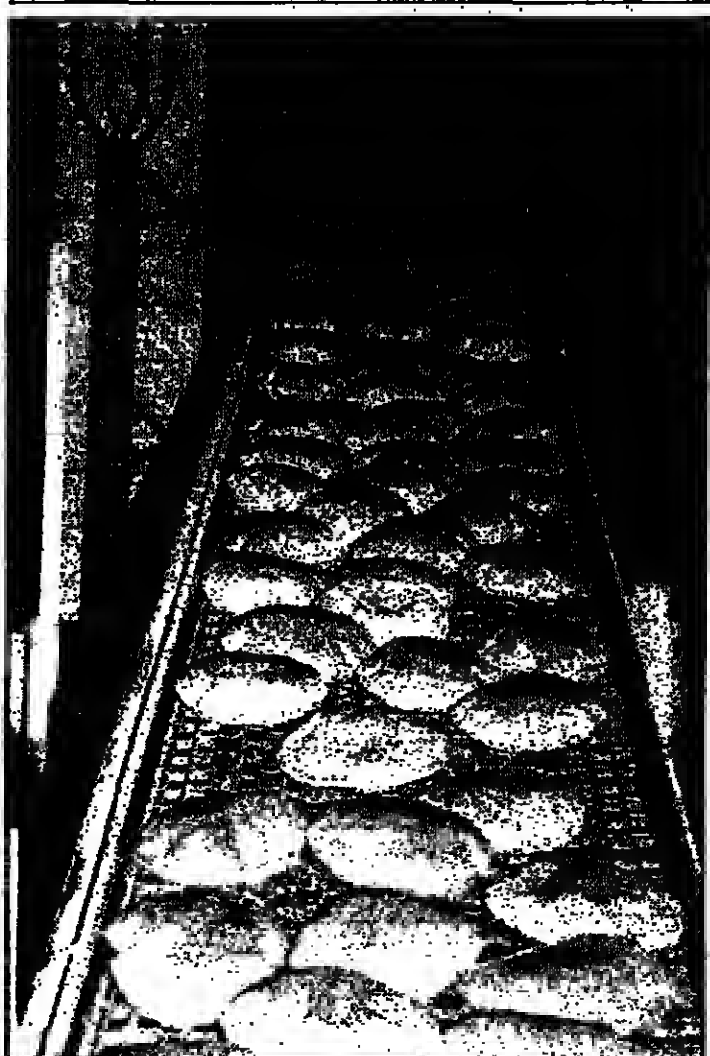
KUWAIT, Jan 22, (Kuna) Undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Mohammed Al Munais today said that the electricity production capacity from Al Subbiyah station under construction and the current available capacity will cover the country's power needs until the end of the century.

The official, speaking to Kuwait News Agency, said that production capacity of Al Subbiyah station will reach 3400 mega watt. He added that the current production capacity stands at 7411 mega watt, noting that the total capacity for the year 1995 will reach 9881 mega watt, to match the development process in the country.

The ministry is careful to inspect electrical projects before implementation he said, adding that the ministry then inspects electrical wirings to make sure they are safe and match the required rates.

One kilowatt electricity production an hour costs 14-18 fils, he said. The ministry had noticed the existence of cheap electrical appliances in the market which when used may cause an electrical shock or fire, Munais said, adding that the ministry in co-operation with commerce and industry had typed a booklet on Kuwait safety standard for electrical wirings.

Meanwhile, a local daily has reported that the Research Studies and Follow-up Team recently formed at the office of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister will undertake research, studies and follow-up of various issues of interest to citizens in the economic and social spheres.



Additives in bread denied

KUWAIT Flour Mills and Bakeries company has denied that the company is using chemicals in its output of Arab bread either white or brown which represents 92% of its product.

The managing director of the company Bader Abdulmohsen Al Mosa was quoted as confirming that the company was committed to Kuwait standards concerning the percentage of additive materials which had been recommended also by the Nutrition Committee which groups experts from World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The company however is using some additives in its output of European bread which constitutes 8% of the company's production. The official was commenting on a study prepared recently by the director of nutrition department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Fawziya Al Awadi in which she confirmed that the potassium bromide used as an additive in the bread industry causes cancer in case the quantity taken by human beings is more than 400 milligrams.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Govern a great nation as you would cook a small fish—don't overdo it—Confucius, Chinese philosopher (555 BC - 479 BC)

OPINION

Let us start the dialogue

THE opinion of the state about the Monday meetings demanding resumption of parliamentary life has been addressed by the highest authorities in the land—H H the Amir and H H the Crown Prince and Premier.

To place on record the authorities' understandings, they runs as follows: issues should be discussed in the age-old Kuwaiti tradition in wisdom and coolness—particularly when these issues relate to matters between the government and a number of citizens.

The methods of killing, assassination, imprisonment, conspiracies and liquidation of opponents, has never been used by our government. Wisdom and amicable solutions have remained the way. Everything can be discussed and the opinion which is the most logical and which gains the support of the majority always wins.

The demands of citizens from the state, which has overcome many difficulties in the past, remain the state's top priority. Yes, we are proud of the peculiarity that Kuwait enjoys among countries in this region. It's Kuwait alone in the Gulf where people enjoy a high degree of relative freedom and where people are free to say everything without fear of reprisal.

Yes, we certainly are for popular participation, but the question remains—in what manner should this participation be brought about? As long as the door of dialogue and discussion has been opened, a starting point should be to cool passions and go to the meeting hall with good and honest intentions.

We have learnt from world events that any issue dealt with stubbornness, usually ends in the unknown. Let the start be an unconditional dialogue to avoid putting a spoke in the wheel and thus blocking the effort.

Let us enter the open door and listen to clarifications of the government which could possibly hold more and cannot be said in public, but can be told to any citizen who cares for the country, its future, stability and prosperity.

Let us accept the call of the Amir and Crown Prince for dialogue—an open dialogue without preconditions to know the type and formula of the popular participation that the government is thinking of.

We can express our views of what form it should take, whilst considering world events to ensure that our country moves towards stability, which leads to prosperity, the prime demand of the Kuwaiti citizen.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1570—Earl of Moray, Regent of Scotland, is assassinated.
- 1631—France, by treaty of Barwalde, undertakes to subsidise Sweden.
- 1668—England and Holland sign alliance of The Hague.
- 1799—French troops capture Italian city of Naples.
- 1849—Prussia suggests German union without Austria.
- 1878—Britain's cabinet sends fleet to Constantinople at Sultan Abdul-Hamid II's request.
- 1913—Nazim Pasha is murdered in Turkish Coup, and Shevket Pasha forms ministry.
- 1920—Holland refuses to surrender Germany's former Kaiser William II to allies for punishment as World War I criminal.
- 1937—Seventeen communist leaders confess in Moscow that they conspired with Leon Trotsky to undermine Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin.
- 1945—Soviet forces reach Oder River in World War II.
- 1964—Indonesia and Malaysia agree to ceasefire in their undeclared border war.
- 1968—North Korea seizes US Navy ship Pueblo and holds crew as spies.
- 1973—US President Richard Nixon announces that accord has been reached in Vietnam war.
- 1986—Rival black tribes fight each other in South Africa's rural Natal Province, leaving at least 30 dead and 40 wounded.
- 1989—Civilian commandos and army troops backed by tanks battle an infantry base on outskirts of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Quote me

"The events of the past few days have been the most difficult of my life, more difficult than fighting my way out of poverty as a black youth, born in the segregated deep south, more difficult than the fear and hatred I faced as a civil rights leader in 1960s, more difficult than I could have imagined. Because this time I've come face to face with my deepest human frailties. I've had to look my human weaknesses straight in the eye, had to realise that I've spent so much time caring about and worrying about and doing for others, I've not worried about or cared enough for myself."—Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, DC after being charged with drug abuse.

"In this day and age there's no room for the weak or for dwarf states. No one can make his way in the world unless he's strong."—Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi on arrival in Tunis for a regional summit.

"It goes without saying that freedom to express varying opinions is a pillar of democracy, and respect for minority opinions is a democratic principle."—Nagasaki Shinbun in an editorial on the shooting of Nagasaki mayor.

"The revolution will destroy anyone who stands in its way...and amputate those who betray the nation."—Military strongman General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir of Sudan.

"These remarks will be published in the US and will end with damage that will be difficult to describe. The United States adapts itself to the world, but it certainly stays away from problems that seem hopeless. I hope the government of Israel will not succeed in convincing Washington that the region of the Middle East is hopeless."—A US senator on remarks made by Shamir about realizing Zionist aspirations.

"Those of us who suffer from serious medical disorders deeply regret DEA's refusal to acknowledge our needs, and we are asking the US Court of Appeals to review administrator Lawn's decision to deprive seriously ill patients of legal, medically supervised access to marijuana."—Robert Randall, head of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics suing the US Drug Enforcement Agency for refusal to reschedule marijuana for medical use.



Crowds of Azerbaijani activists block the advance of Soviet army tanks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Military called in to restore calm

Gorby nips civil war in bud

Soviet empire crumbling

MOSCOW, (AP): Mikhail S. Gorbachev sent soldiers crashing through barricades of buses and trucks to battle armed nationalists in Baku after the threat of civil war and secession overcame his deep reluctance to use force.

In both foreign and internal affairs, the Soviet leader is trying to instill the supremacy of negotiation and law in a country more accustomed to the heavy hands that filled labour camps and unmarked graves and invaded Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

Mindful of the bloody precedents, Gorbachev tried to defuse the ancient Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict that resurfaced in February 1988 with decrees, discussions and appeals to common sense. Victims of the conflict, and the budding political opposition openly second-guess him, accusing Gorbachev of aggravating the problem with indecision.

Necessary

He ordered the military to shoot if necessary when he became convinced he had no alternative.

"It could no longer go on," a worn-looking Gorbachev told the nation in a television address.

"Instances of brutal violence, vandalism and the violation of laws have mounted in the country," he said. "The state is duty-bound to put an end to lawlessness and inhumanity, to resolutely curb criminal actions of extremists who have lost human face, who are prepared to take other people's lives for the sake of personal ambition, selfish interests and power."

Some soldiers were killed in the fighting, a somber Gorbachev said. "Grief came today into some houses. I convey to these families my most sincere condolences," he said.

The ethnic conflict and anger with Moscow's stand has led nationalists in both Azerbaijan and Armenia to demand full independence for their republics. But in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, the political instability was accompanied by attacks that killed dozens of ethnic Armenians.

Gorbachev has staked his reforms on convincing the world that the Soviet Union believes consultation is better than confrontation. Domestically, he is removing Moscow's heavy hand in order to shift more responsibility to local authorities.

In raising the prestige and power of local authorities, he has assumed that they logically would follow his reform policies, and he has appeared startled and angry when they have not.

But in the past, the Soviet leader had sent in Interior Ministry soldiers only to guard vital installations in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and to end a bloody attack on minority Meskhetian Turks in Uzbekistan that left about 100 people dead.

Once, when he was out of the country, violence was used against nationalist protesters in the other Caucasus republic, Georgia. The slaughter of 19 demonstrators by troops who wielded shovels because Gorbachev earlier had ordered them disarmed, sparked a national outcry that probably was at least partly responsible for the retirement of a former KGB chief from the ruling politburo.

Writer and historian Ales Adamovich, a progressive member of the Congress of People's Deputies, fretted in a study of Gorbachev's personality, printed earlier this month in the weekly Moscow News, that the Soviet leader risks losing respect because of his disdain for using force.

"Can you achieve anything in this country with his character mentality and psychology—without a

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The spiraling ethnic violence in Soviet Azerbaijan and the use of troops to restore order demonstrates how tenuous Moscow's hold is on its empire of nationalities whose desires for sovereignty have been fuelled by Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

It is clear after autumn's regional elections in the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, in Moldova on the Romanian border, and in the southern republics of Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan that the glue that once bound the Soviet Union together is cracking. The glue was strong central authority of the Stalinist era that brooked no dissent.

The upsurge in nationalism across the Soviet Union's 15 republics, which are in turn divided into 16 fully autonomous sub-republics and 18 autonomous regions, is driving home a lesson that the governments of Britain and France learned in Africa and Southeast Asia: that colonial-style rule from afar that ignores nationalist aspirations and cultures is doomed to fail.

Gorbachev has long admitted the nationalist issue is one of the major internal problems facing the Kremlin, but in reality he has done little in his almost five years in power to meet the crisis head on.

Moscow's traditional reaction, even under Gorbachev, to ethnic and nationalist strife has been to fire local communist party leaders and bring in ethnic Russians, just as colonial powers used military governors to keep the peace, to whip the party back in line.

But even that policy no longer is

effective because nationalist movements, blooming under glasnost and perestroika and benefiting from last March's local elections—the first ever in which non-communists were permitted to run for office—have taken control of republican-level governments and infiltrated local communist parties.

The traditional method of Moscow's control, through a network of royal regional parties, has been eroded by democratic reforms.

During his visit earlier in January to Lithuania, where the local Communist Party has broken with Moscow, bringing the tiny republic to the verge of secession, Gorbachev spoke of a new federation of Soviet states, one linked voluntarily by economic necessity and security needs, rather than a union forged in chains.

It is a theory Gorbachev has been talking about for at least three years and has yet to publicly flesh out with detail. Lithuanian nationalists, tired of hollow promises of more freedom, dismissed it as propaganda.

With economic performance lagging under Gorbachev's reforms and the emergence of a grass roots conservative Russian backlash against nationalist movements in other republics, there are fears that Moscow's tolerance level for dissidence may be dropping.

While the use of the Red Army to crush the rampaging Muslim mob in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku may have reassured Russian nationalists that Gorbachev is still willing to get tough to preserve the empire, it has given an anti-Soviet dimension to a problem where one never existed.

The current problem in Azerbaijan has its roots in a centuries-old

religious and land dispute between Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians and not in any anti-Soviet or anti-colonial dispute.

Azerbaijani nationalists who have concentrated their efforts on fighting their old enemies, the Armenians, now have a new enemy, the Red Army, viewed as an occupation force on their territory.

Because the conflict over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which erupted again in earnest two years ago, had no anti-Soviet bias, Moscow felt it could ignore the situation. That neglect allowed it to fester and finally spiral out of control, necessitating the use of the Red Army.

The forceful crushing of the Baku disturbances also has given neighboring Iran a window to stir up anti-Soviet sentiment in a region once controlled by Iran but divided by treaty in 1828.

Most Azerbaijanis live in the Iranian half of the territory. Azerbaijanis on both sides of the border are Shiite Muslims.

The Red Army actions in Baku and the military reinforcement of the troubled border with Iran has angered Iran's volatile clerics and threatens a new crisis in relations between Moscow and Tehran.

It is a crisis Gorbachev had fervently hoped to avoid in an area where the communist red flag has been long ground in the ideological battle to the fanatical Muslim green.

Gorbachev has gone out of his way to cultivate Iran as, at the very least, a passive neighbour now that the Gulf war with Iraq, the Soviet Union's long standing regional ally, is virtually over and Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan.

Letters to the editor

Children's competition

SIR: In most things in life, (forgive the cliché), there are winners and losers. The recently concluded children's competition is perhaps no exception. No one would doubt that the primary winners were the children, whose enthusiasm and abilities any community would be proud to discover. If there is a second prize it must go to those dedicated people who conceived and made it happen. Hats off to them! Re-born Indian Arts Circle has blazed many trails already in its relatively short period of existence but the children's competition is the one whose impact will last to the furthest reaches of the development of the Indian community. Many young minds will be grateful to the years to come, for the early encouragement they received to discover their talents. Would it not be wonderful if there were no losers and no blemishes on the milestone?

Unfortunately it was not to be. If the children were the winners, the biggest loser was the quality of judging. While many of the distinguished ladies and gentlemen who sat on judgement could hold their own with the best and the ablest, the appalling judgement in many instances could only suggest a yawning gap between the able ones and their less endowed colleagues. Not many events were as exposed to public scrutiny as the painting. Some of the winning entries and their ranking, as one could see on the display boards on the prize distribution day, seriously destabilises one's confidence in his or her visual sense. Some judges may claim extra-artistic perception, but it is certainly not very convincing. One hates to think, how many excellent drawings fell victim to the anomalous judgement and did not even reach the display boards.

Judging over nine hundred pieces of artwork is not the easiest assignment and those who had to undertake it deserve great admiration. However, it is equally important to note that giving the wrong signals to the young talents, with minds at a highly impressionable age, through lack of mature judgement, is not an acceptable alternative to a thorough screening of the invites to judges' seats. Another set of events that, in some instances, defied normal sense of understanding is the vocal music. Many without even the rudimentary understanding of the refinements of the art of music climbed to high reaches in the judges' estimation while some with obviously superior performance, fell by the wayside. Many people's understanding of Indian music will now need to undergo drastic reform. The saddest part of such mishaps is the disservice a few words to the enormous amount of excellent work many others put in.

While success of the Indian Arts Circle has done more than anything else before it, to raise the Indian community's belief in itself and create a justifiable sense of pride that goes with it, it is not altogether surprising that a few of the inner sanctum of the committee supervising the competition have not yet realised that their pride has wandered into the realm of arrogance. Anyone who has tried to work the official grievance procedures of the competition (which did not seem to have any effective teeth) would testify to that.

To the gentlemen of the inner sanctum, even a suggestion of a possible error in the computer entries brought response of disbelief and in some cases derision. One can be forgiven to gain the impression that those gentlemen rule with absolute authority and impunity, free from any organisational checks and balances. What happens between the judges' verdict and the computer gurgling out the final results, we guess, will remain an eternal mystery for ordinary mortals. We all sincerely hope, such confidence of the IAC authorities in their system and its ability to ensure fairness is fully justified. However, an assumption of a system's absolute infallibility and erecting a Chinese wall of unaccountability on that assumption frighten those who believe in the organisation not just for who or what matter to-day but for its fundamental qualities that will ensure that it outlasts us and our human frailties to serve many generations of the Indian community to come.

Mrs Tapati Ray, Dayish.

Reply needed

SIR: I have read the letter of Mr John Manduram which is my humble opinion was a very neat and beautiful exposure of the UMO officials. The letter never had any reference to individuals or any unidentified remarks on the past doings of the UMO as an organisation. In this context, it was the organisational obligation of the UMO to give a reply either by repudiating its observations or admitting the mistakes, if any. Instead of that a series of letters had appeared which ultimately amounted to insult and diverting from the main theme. Ironically enough, out of a single UMO worker or single member of the organisation out of the two which make up the super body and come out in the open to give a supporting hand to the badly mauled UMO officials. It appears that the executive body of the organisation has endorsed the criticism. Can this be denied?

One of the newspapers on Nov 27 carried a detailed report of the UMO's Bharath Mela opened by the Indian ambassador to Kuwait. As per the report, during the meeting it was announced that the chairman's wife had adopted two poor children. In this connection I would like to ask a few questions:

1. Is that report true?

2. If true, then, a. What are the names of the two children? b. What are their ages? c. Are these children staying with their new mother or put up in an orphanage? d. What is the average cost for food, schooling, etc. e. Are they entitled for a share of the wealth of the adopter as in the case of any adopted child? f. Has UMO, being an organisation in a foreign land, complied to the legal requirements of such adoption?

Finally, if the UMO cannot give satisfactory answer to very simple questions pertaining to adoption then why did they make such public pronouncement with a view to misguide the whole Indian community in Kuwait and the 500,000 readers of the newspaper at large. The predicament of the UMO officials are self explanatory.

A.B.R.V. Unnoomi, Safat.

سكاي العرب

MIDEAST



Husseini points upward as he leaves jail, released on bail after three days of questioning by Israeli police over his alleged links with Arab uprising militants. (Reuters wirephoto)

Activist Husseini released on bail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 22, (Agencies): Fatah activist, a leading pro-PLO Palestinian activist, was released today by police on his own recognisance after he was held three days on suspicion of financing Palestinian uprising militants.

The detention Friday of the 49-year-old Husseini who has been mentioned as a possible Palestinian Middle East negotiator, had dealt a blow to US-brokered efforts to arrange for Israeli-Arab peace talks.

In a related development, Israel's Attorney-General Yosef Harel ordered police today to probe suspicious that Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman of the left-of-centre Labour Party held illegal contacts with PLO figures, Israeli radio reported.

Weizman's alleged contacts with the PLO nearly broke up Israel's coalition government three weeks ago when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir forced him to resign from the decision-making inner cabinet because of the accusations.

Despite an investigation, Weizman would be immune from prosecution unless parliament lifted his immunity as a legislator by a majority vote. Israeli law bars contacts with the PLO allowing a maximum punishment of three years in jail.

"Nothing will stop the peace process," Husseini, unshaven and wearing a black leather coat, told reporters as he left a police lockup in downtown Jerusalem.

As he spoke he was mobbed by about a dozen Jewish extremists, who taunted him with shouts of "death to Husseini," "death to the terrorists" as they shook their fists.

Several pushing and shoving matches erupted between the Jewish and Arab protesters and police waved truncheons as they pushed the demonstrators back from a sidewalk.

No one was reported injured in the melee, and Husseini managed to push his way into a waiting car.

Husseini later told a news conference he believed he was jailed as a signal from Shamir that Israel would not allow a delegation from East Jerusalem into peace talks, "and my name became known as a person for the delegation."

Shamir objects to including East Jerusalem as a topic in peace talks because Israel holds that the city is its indivisible capital.

Police detained Husseini Friday on suspicion that he belonged to a "hostile organisation" and paid 900 shekels (\$450) to Palestinian activists to buy uniforms. Husseini has denied the allegations.

In a detention hearing Friday, a district court judge ordered Husseini held for four days for questioning.

Husseini today appeared before a police investigator who said the probe against Husseini would continue, but that there was no need to extend his detention.

Israel radio said Husseini was questioned over the weekend by Israel's domestic security service, and that as a result several Palestinians were arrested. The report did not elaborate.

Husseini's release came after the United States harshly criticised his detention. US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Friday that "such actions discourage Palestinian confidence in the peace process and contribute to the prevailing atmosphere of distrust."

Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, have rejected charges by Israeli liberals and Palestinians that Husseini was arrested to placate right-wing pressure groups.

"There was no political pressure. If (the arrest) was carried out by the authorities who deal with trials and investigations," Shamir said today in an interview with army radio.

Husseini has been involved in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts to arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied lands.

Husseini, who speaks fluent Hebrew, frequently addresses Israeli audiences, calling for a Palestinian state alongside Israel and denouncing violence on both sides.

Abu Nidal fighters kill Israeli colonel

Four commandos die in fighting

SIDON, Lebanon, Jan 22, (Agencies): The radical Abu Nidal Palestinian group claimed responsibility today for the border attack in which an Israeli army colonel was killed.

A statement by Fatah-Revolutionary Council, the group led by Abu Nidal, said their squad was "until now fighting the enemy forces who were deployed in the area."

But in occupied Jerusalem, the army said Israeli infantry and tank forces chased and shot dead four Arab fighters responsible for the attack.

The Abu Nidal statement said the attack was in retaliation for Friday's Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases and positions of the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Seven people were killed and 18 wounded in the raids, the first Israeli air strikes against targets in Lebanon this year.

Israeli army Col Yitzhak Rahimov was killed yesterday in a gun battle with fighters who occupied a house in the zone Israel occupies in south Lebanon. He was the highest ranking officer killed since Israel withdrew the bulk of its military forces from Lebanon in 1985.

The army command said a patrol of the Israeli-trained South Lebanon Army militia encountered three fighters, who barricaded themselves inside the house near the village of Yaroun, about 1 mile (1.6 kms) north of the Israeli border.

Israel army radio said an SLA unit led by Rahimov surrounded the three-storey house. A hand grenade was hurled from the house, and the fighters, opened up with automatic weapons. Rahimov was shot in the head, it said.

Troops promptly stormed the three-storey house and found the body of one fighter there, said Israel's Chief of Staff, Lt Gen. Dan Shomron. He said it was not certain whether he was killed by Israeli troops or by cover fire from his squad members.

After Sunday's exchange, troops backed by tanks launched an overnight search for two other fighters who the soldiers believed had fled the house, the army said.

"A chase has been going on since early morning hours, and in the end they were discovered and in a short battle they were eliminated," Shomron said on Israeli army radio today.

An army announcement said "a fourth fighter was sighted in the area and was also killed by the Israeli forces after a chase. This was not immediately clear whether the fourth fighter was in the house at the time of Sunday's ambush."

Sources in Lebanon said the identity of the fighters could not be immediately determined. The raids are usually launched as reprisals for attacks. Sunday's infiltration and the reported slaying of a senior officer raised the spectre that the Israelis will strike again in retaliation.

Rahimov had led a unit of the Israeli-trained South Lebanon Army to Yaroun on Sunday after a village reported siding three fighters in olive-coloured uniforms, Israeli radio said. They were reportedly armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and Soviet-designed Kalashnikov assault rifles.

At about 3.30 pm (13.30 GMT), they fired at the militia from an isolated three-storey house located on the road linking Yaroun with the neighbouring village of Beit Jbal.

As the militiamen surrounded the house, the fighters opened fire and hurled grenades at them.

Hirawi, struggling to extend his writ over all his fragmented country, has said previously only Lebanese troops would be used in any attack to oust Aoun from the presidential palace in Christian East Beirut.

Hirawi was elected by Lebanese parliamentarians who also ratified a pact aimed at reuniting the country after 14 years of civil war. He is expected to return home later today.

Diplomats say he is expected to visit several other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, to seek their help for a speedy solution.

Leaders of the three states, under a mandate from the Arab League, mediated the peace pact which calls for changes to give Muslims more political power in the Christian-dominated system. Aoun fiercely rejects it for failing to stipulate a Syrian troops withdrawal and refuses to recognise Hirawi.

Lebanese and Syrian officials said Hirawi's government would start its bid to extend its authority in West Beirut.

Two of Lebanon's leading newspapers were banned from the Christian enclave today after defying Aoun's decree banning the media from describing his rival Hirawi as President.

Egypt, UAE in defence talks
CAIRO, Jan 22, (Reuters): The armed forces chiefs of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates discussed military co-operation in Cairo today, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

"We discussed different aspects of military co-operation between Egypt and the UAE, specially training and armaments," Egypt's Chief of Staff, General Saifuddin Abu Sinaf, told the agency after talks with Lieutenant-General Mohammed Said El Badi.

Israel appears to have sent US-made cluster bombs to Ethiopia in violation of American law barring such third party transfers, administration officials said yesterday.

Jewish state in the wake of the Arab-Israeli six day war.

CTK said the talks with Czechoslovakia, Premier Marian Calfa, which opened immediately after Peres' arrival, focused on bilateral relations.

"They envisaged resuming diplomatic ties, and the future co-operation between Czechoslovakia and Israel," CTK said.

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Afghan rebel bid to end rift

RIYADH, Jan 22, (AP): The Prime Minister of Afghanistan's Interim Islamic Government, Prof. Abdul-Rasoul Sayyaf, arrived yesterday, apparently seeking Saudi help in resolving differences between rebel groups fighting the Kabul government.

Sayyaf, making his first visit to Saudi Arabia since his election last year, was greeted at the airport by Prince Sattam bin Abdul-Aziz, Deputy Governor of Riyadh province, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The agency said Sayyaf flew to Saudi Arabia to perform Umra, or out-of-season pilgrimage to the holy sites at Makkah and Medina.

But informed sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sayyaf was expected to discuss with Saudi leaders a plan to elect a new Majlis Shura, or Islamic-style parliament, for the Muslim mujahedeen rebels who fought the Soviet army.

They formed an interim Islamic government following the Soviet withdrawal last year and have vowed to topple a Moscow government in Kabul.

Saudi Arabia is a leading supporter of the mujahedeen and was the first country to recognise the interim government.

The sources said that Sayyaf would be counting on Saudi connections with the various mujahedeen factions to help him bridge differences that plague the rebel forces.

The Pakistan-based groups are Sunni Muslims. Rival groups of Shiite Muslims are based in Iran.

The sources said that Sayyaf is accompanied by Burhanuddin Rabbani, Minister of Reconstruction and leader of the Jamiat Islami group, one of the largest mujahedeen factions.

Interior Minister Yunus Khalis and Defence Minister Muhammad Naji Muhammad.

Qulbuddin Hikmatyar, the Foreign Minister and representative of another prominent group, Hizb Islami, did not accompany Sayyaf to Saudi Arabia, the sources said.

Iran detains families abused: charges Khalq
NICOSIA, Jan 22, (AP): The main Iranian opposition group said today that the government in the Islamic republic was detaining the families of people tortured and executed to prevent them giving testimony to a United Nations human rights investigator.

A United Nations delegation arrived in Tehran yesterday to begin the first major investigation into alleged human rights abuses in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, said the mission was scheduled to meet several senior Iranian officials, but did not identify them.

It is led by Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the UN human rights commission's special envoy and an international law expert from El Salvador.

The opposition group Mujahedeen Khalq, said in a statement today that Iranian security police started several days ago "mass arrests of families of victims of political executions and political prisoners - who are foremost among witnesses of human rights violations in Iran."

The statement, telecast to the Associated Press from the group's Baghdad headquarters, said the detentions had taken place in Tehran, Bandar-Anzali, Lahijan and other provincial cities. It said those detained had been warned they would be punished if they spoke to the investigators.

It said police had set up check points in major cities, 150 in Tehran alone, to check the movement of people who might want to talk to the UN team. The report could not be immediately independently confirmed.

Shooting in court, extremists blamed
ALGIERS, Jan 22, (Reuters): Algeria's state prosecutor blamed a hitherto unknown Islamic fundamentalist group yesterday for a courtroom shooting in which three people were killed.

Amar Bengarah told a news conference the group planned to wage guerrilla war against the Algerian state and appeared independent of existing Algerian or foreign fundamentalist organisations.

Six people shouting "God is great" and "death to enemies of God" stormed into the courtroom in Blida south of Algiers, last Tuesday. A policeman and two of the group were killed in the ensuing shootout and the other four were arrested.

Name negotiators

Uprising leaders call to PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 22, (Reuters): Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising stressed today that the PLO must appoint Palestinian negotiators for peace talks with Israel.

The demand was contained in the latest leaflet of the unified national leadership of the 25-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We insist on the full role of our leadership, the PLO, to choose and announce the Palestinian delegation for talks. We reject every attempt to find proxies," the leaflet said.

"We stress that no one from the occupied homeland will participate in a delegation not chosen and announced by the PLO," the leaflet said.

The formation of Palestinian negotiators has emerged as a key obstacle to US and Egyptian efforts to arrange preliminary Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo, exasperating Secretary of State James Baker.

The uprising leaders blasted the United States for giving Israel what they called "unending support ... whether by providing them with destructive weapons or by supporting them politically, economically and in public relations."

The uprising leaders praised a Soviet decision to give the PLO mission in Moscow the status of an embassy, but criticised Moscow's East European allies for moving towards renewing ties with the Jewish state.

"We feel that this does not match the slogans of justice and democracy which they have raised. How can such governments renew relations with a regime that oppresses its people and denies them their basic human rights and democracy?" they asked.

In the West Bank village of Beitunia, residents said the body of a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities, Abdallah Ghaleb, 21, was found today.

He was the third Palestinian to be killed apparently by fellow uprising members.

Rebels release 30 Poles: Eritrean rebels released on Monday the crew of a Polish cargo ship attacked in the Red Sea this month, and the Poles were being flown home within hours, Sudan's government spokesman said.

The official Sudan news agency quoted Ali Shummo, Minister of Information and Culture, as saying that rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front handed over 30 Poles to a Sudanese military team at the border with Ethiopia shortly after midnight. (AP)

Single Maghreb state suggested: King Hassan II of Morocco opened a summit meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union in Tunis on Monday by suggesting a full union of the five member states.

"Our aim is to turn the Arab Maghreb into one country, with one passport ... one identity and a single currency," he said.

The summit, which was twice postponed and opened two hours late, is looking at proposals to complete the institutions of the union and start work on economic integration. (Reuters)

Open a new page: Sedki
No talks with radicals
ABU DHABI, Jan 22, (Reuters): Egypt's new interior minister has ruled out a dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists, saying he is not a cleric, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported today.

"I have no intention of opening a dialogue with fundamentalists in Egypt. I am a security man, not a cleric," the semi-official Al Itihad quoted Mohammed Abdel Halim Mousa as saying.

"I don't recognise anything called a dialogue with the extremist parties, Mousa said.

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki has urged opposition parties seeking the prosecution of Badr to put the past behind them and start a new chapter.

Israeli embassy opens in Addis Ababa after 17-year break
ADDIS ABABA, Jan 22, (Agencies): Israel officially reopened its embassy in Ethiopia's capital today, 17 years after the two nations severed relations.

Diplomatic ties were restored last November and the embassy has been functioning since then with a small staff under a Charge d'Affaires, Meir Joffe.

Joffe, who lowered the Israeli flag at the embassy when relations were cut, hoisted it once again over the modest chancellery on the north-eastern outskirts of the city.

Attending the rededication ceremony was Itzhak Shelef, assistant director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. He,

DFLP hails 'Israeli peace plan'

NICOSIA, Jan 22, (AP): A radical Palestinian faction yesterday welcomed a Middle East peace plan devised by a former Israeli intelligence official and said it has "positive points".

The Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the plan proposed by Shmuel Toledano should be considered a working paper for discussion between the PLO and Israel in the framework of preparations for an international Middle East peace conference.

The Democratic Front said in a statement sent to the Associated Press in Nicosia that one of the main points of interest in the plan was a survey showing that 60 per cent of Israelis would accept it.

"If the plan's survey is close to the truth, then it should be considered a sign of change in Israeli public opinion that is worth checking and following up," the statement said.

The peace plan, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in stages, was proposed last week by Toledano, an adviser on Arab affairs to three Israeli premiers and a former official of the Mossad intelligence agency.

"If the plan's survey is close to the truth, then it should be considered a sign of change in Israeli public opinion that is worth checking and following up," the statement said.

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Ghadir Amraan



Prize distribution



Saad Al Muhana, Chairman



Eman Dashi



Dr Sadiq Al Bassam

Kuwaiti accountants honoured

THE Kuwaiti Auditors and Accountants Society held a reception last week to honour the members of the former board, the working committees and the new

graduates. It was held at the Regency Palace. The society's chairman, Saad Al Muhana, welcomed the new graduates and thanked the former board members

and its working committees. Former chairman of the society, Dr. Sadeq Al Bassam thanked the new board for the reception and spoke about the

challenges facing the profession in Kuwait. He called for efforts to be consolidated and urged all auditors and accountants to back the society.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Milagro Beanfield War
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein Shyam
Fahabheel
One Man Force
Al Jahra
Lakhi Badhu
Granada
Hall Booked
Salaubikhat
C.O.D
They Went That Way
Jileeb
Zulim
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hajeri Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street
Ebin Rushd Pharmacy
Al Duaij Souq
Hawalli & Nagra
Shamsan Pharmacy
Ebin Khaldoun Street
Salmiya & Rumaythiya
Sahari Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahabheel & Ahmadi
Adel Pharmacy
Fahabheel
Jileeb Esboyukh
Al Namran Pharmacy
Opposite to Esboyukh School
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Al Matafi Street

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.19 am
Zuhr 12.00 pm
Asr 2.59 pm
Maghreb 5.19 pm
Isha 6.38 pm

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Alfa Wajh Lil Ha- qeeqa: Arabic serial starring Salah Zool- fikar, Muhana Taw- feeq, and Mohammed Redha
12.05 Challenges: foreign cultural programme (part 3)
12.30 News summary
12.35 Sabah Al Kher news
12.40 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Bercen: cartoon serial
5.15 The World of To- morrow: cultural serial
5.15 Night chemists, air- lines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aasheq: historical serial (part 6)
6.45 Varieties
7.00 Our children and the future: local pro- gramme (part 4), prepared and presented by Dr. Mohammed Jawad Redha
8.00 Made in Kuwait: Information programme, prepared and presented by Dr. Ali Al Damkhi
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Laeboun Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 2)
10.45 Al Burkan: Arabic weekly serial (part 3), starring Rasheed Assaf, Fadya Khat- tab and Weba Al Raheb
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announce- ment and Holy Quran
6.10 Dipleos: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Dartmour: "Sum- mer": Summer season where people can prac- tise all their favourite sports and hobbies... Pollution caused by summer vacationers
7.00 Peacable Kingdom "Aardark": Rebasca is romanced by a lawyer who is trying to close down an aquatic park and Dr Langley defies doctors orders to see to the mating of leopards.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law
8.45 Coming of Age: "All I Wani Was a New Car": Dick finds a job as a salesman which helps him buy a new car...
9.15 The Story of Holly- wood: Torn from Today's Headlines: From the bright side of Hollywood's films ranging from Grapes of Wrath to the President's Man to dark threats of cme- matic freedom brought by the black- list and the House Un- American Activities Committee...
10.00 The Twilight Zone: "The Cold Equation": An astronaut carries an urgent shipment of drugs. He faces unex- pected problems when he finds a girl on his spacecraft...
10.30 The Silk Route of the Sea (pt. 4) "Sindbad's Boat": A special programme on the United Arab Emirates and Dubai on the Silk Route... The trade of Arabia with other foreign countries through ages...
11.30 A Man Called Hawk: "A Time and a Place": An ex-prisoner hires two criminals to assassinate Hawk who is ready to the challenge...
12.15 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery ex- tended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more in- formation contact: 2421951.

Iraqi ceramics
AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbol- ism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tues- day 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School com- mences its new term. Jan 1990

registration is now open Sat- urday in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Bar-B-Q
IAC is organising its first Bar-B-Q night with the Octave group. Programmes start at 7 pm includes music, dance, games, and vegetarian and non-vegetarian bar-b-q. Entries are restricted by passes only. For details contact Sharma at 2644863, Sunny at 4343329, Jacob 4319549, George 4735972.

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soussant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Feley, Jose- phine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Jun- ior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Hotel Ramada Al Salam
A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting perfor- mances by Indian classical dan- cers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to com- plete a memorable event.

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Caledonian Society
The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further infor- mation and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

British Council
Story Telling Session: Thurs- day, Jan 25 at 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a story teller. Children of all nationalities, ages 3-7 are invited. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Bookworm Contest: The British Council is launching a bookworm contest open to children aged 7-15 years. Read as many books as you can. Have fun reading and win prizes. Register now at the British Council Library. Closing date for registration: Jan 27, 1990.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Car- nival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)
IN the arena of entertain- ment "The Entertainers" wel- comes all to witness their "Car- nival Nite" at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crow- ning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announ- ced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival."

SAAZ aur Aawaz
SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule- Bisre Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funitees on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/ 3610224/5638026 after 4 pm.

Raga Sharq
INTENSIVE courses (Jan- uary and February) in Raga Sharq, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Kuwait Nomads RFC
A MATCH for all players available this weekend will take place on Thursday 25th. Please meet at 3 pm at Ahmadi. Any problems please contact S Hill or G Adams.

Ladies International League
LIL newcomers coffee morning will be held on Monday 29 Jan- uary from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sheraton Hotel. New- comers to Kuwait and LIL are most welcome. For more infor- mation call Ann on 5316905.

Flag hoisting
On the occasion of the Republic Day of India on Jan 26, 1990, there will be flag hoist- ing ceremony at 0900 hrs on that day, in the Indian Embassy premises at No. 34, Istiqlal Street.

NRI Forum lecture on Tax- ation and Investments
NRI Investors Forum is bol- ding a lecture session at Indian embassy on Tuesday, the 30th January at 7.30 pm. The meet- ing would be addressed by a visiting expert from India. All Indians are welcome.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Tele- phone: 561847 or 5317354.

...Like a Hurricane!!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featur- ing Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

The Carnival Nite
"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous cos- tumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

SPORTS

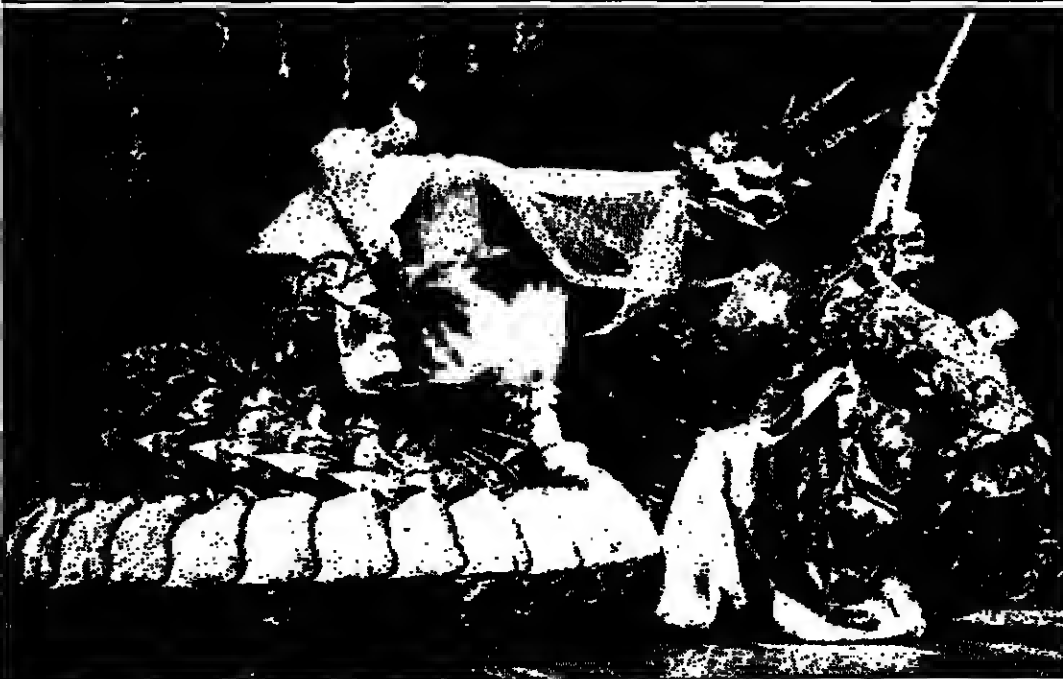
Shuttle Cup
KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match be- tween the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes

colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues- Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00. Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit. Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6, Tack- wondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and commu- nity tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all stand- ards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching avail- able. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.



The beauty and spirit of Japan

Japan week 1990

MOST of Japanese folk perfor- mance arts have arisen out of the fertile ground of popular religious sentiment and developed with their own pol- ished sense of stylized beauty and invocation.

Agriculture was the major occupation of the Japanese people over many centuries, so it is natural that many folk perfor- mances have grown out of pray- ing for a rich harvest and peaceful life. Later connected with religious rituals and prac- tices in shrines and temples, they became embodied with various meanings, and began represent- ing various aspects of Japan's

culture, such as expressing devo- tion to the gods, imitating agricultural tasks, and extolling the joys and sorrows of daily life. In those performances, a variety of gods come to appear, sometimes solemnly and sometimes comically, exchange- ing amenities with people and praying for peace.

Also, music with a peculiar tempo, actions of stamping

down on the earth to appease revengeful spirits, and colourful costumes are other elements that fascinate the audience.

It is our sincere hope that through our performances, which represent the most excellent part of Japanese folk dance and music, greater mutual understanding and friendship among nations may be promoted.

Japan film festival

Today's film is Sanjuro (1962). To be screened at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. The film is subtitled in Arabic and directed by Akira Kurosawa.



Le Meridien welcomes 'Miss France'

The Managament of Hotel Le Meridien Kuwait welcomed "Miss France" and her accompanying delegation on their visit to Kuwait to promote the French Perfume "Bibi". The hotel management held a warm reception to honour their guest, Gaeue Voire (Miss France). Picture shows (left-right): Nadie Ayad, director of sales, Keaton Woods, general manager and Gaeue Voire, Miss France.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

New strategy needed to strengthen private sector: Saadoun

Reactivation drive fails to stimulate banks

KUWAIT'S well known economist, Jassem Al Saadoun yesterday advised the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to stop its participation with the government in carrying out recommendations included in an economic report aimed at reviving the stagnant Kuwait economy.

The managing director of Alshail Economic Consultancy launched a severe criticism on the government-sponsored report, particularly the part relating to the settlement of the bank debt crisis. But Al Saadoun admitted at a special seminar called by the Kuwaiti Auditors Society to discuss the economic report, that the report included in theory very good recommendations, adding that these recommendations were not new. They were included in most of the previous economic reports that the government had prepared in the past.

He emphasised on the importance of implementation which in his views "looks to be dim." In his lengthy lecture, supported by facts and figures, Saadoun stressed that there has been a grave misconception about the definition of economic recession or boost. He added that by economic recession or activity it is meant "the production process, measured by the total growth rates, manpower, its productivity and quality and their effect on the balances of prices, public treasury and the net dealings of the country with the outside world."

Saadoun emphasised that taking into consideration this clear definition "We have had no real growth over the past 30 years with the exception of those resulting from the increase in oil

prices and its production and these are not in the production process." There is not enough production units to accommodate the manpower.

There are units through which revenues from oil are distributed. For this we have been suffering from a severe masked unemployment and expectations for the future could be more dangerous, Saadoun said. We have stopped caring for the price balances. On the contrary, inflation has become an essential part in our definition of economic activity. When prices of land increase, followed by hikes in costs of housing, increase in rents and majority of people are adversely affected.

He added that on the same lines, when the prices of shares go up to affect an increase in cost of living, then economic activation is successful. And, when the state declares a deficit in the budget and imposes charges on services and does not impose taxes on the rich, they believe that the economic activation is achieved. Thus, we have been using wrong definitions and terms for the economic activation we want to achieve, Saadoun said.

He said that the economic revival report is a conclusion of two reports, presented by the government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said that although parts of the chamber's report were included in the final joint report, but its proposals on the settlement of the difficult bank debts, were ruled out. He feared that recommendations other than those relating to the difficult loans, may not be implemented.

In his lecture, Saadoun tackled the various recommendations in the

report. Concerning promoting the role of the private sector to share in the country's developmental process, Saadoun said that it was due to the government policies in the past that the role of the private sector was minimised.

It has become a very weak sector concentrating on exchanging assets instead of investing it. He said that the absence of a development strategy to determine the role of the private sector, has left the private sector on the periphery of the national economy.

He said that the report should have adopted the Chamber of Commerce proposal in "the need to adopt a new economic course within the framework of a clear development strategy." On the real estate sector, Saadoun criticised the proposal to establish new border cities by involving the private sector in the construction. He said that the state would spend, unnecessarily, huge amounts on these cities. He also raised doubts on the reality of the figures about the number of vacant apartments in Kuwait at present. Saadoun said that even if the figures were correct, most of the vacant apartments are concentrated in one area. He also objected to the proposal calling to ban Kuwaitis from leasing part of their houses, saying this will have no important bearing on the real estate market.

He said that theoretically, the proposals of the report on activation of the industry and trade sectors are good, but we need to wait and see what can be implemented. However, he objected to the proposal calling for closing down the Friday market (Harsaj). He said that the Friday market poses no real threat

to the commercial market.

Saadoun stressed that there still exists a misconception about the actual role of the Kuwait Stock Exchange market. He said that only 59 per cent of companies in the market achieve profits and they distribute half the profits distributed by other world markets, in spite of the fact that there are no real taxes in Kuwait.

He said that any reform process in the market should start by a process of shake-up to the companies financial positions and managements and all social and political considerations must stay away in this connection.

He said that although the "good recommendations included in the report were not new and were repeated in many previous reports, but the problem remains with implementation." He said that past experience tells us that the previous attempts on shaking-up the financial positions and managements of the companies were not correct. Although some good effort was exerted by honest people in this issue, but the obstacle was always political and social and not technical, he stressed.

But Saadoun's most severe criticism was directed to the report's proposals on settlement of the difficult bank debts. He described this part as "the most dangerous part in the report." Substantiating his conclusion with figures, Saadoun said that the total bad debts is KD 2.2 billion, only KD 900 million of them are mortgaged. Thus, the total deficit is KD 1.3 billion. He said that the number of debtors covered by the programme is 1,350 debtors of whom the deficit of 450 of them is KD 17

million, the deficit of 255 of them is KD 27 million, deficit of 338 is KD 116 million, deficit of another 338 debtors is KD 1,140 million and deficit of 99 debtors is KD 900 million. The number of programme debtors represents only 2.7 per cent of all bank debtors. He said that 33 per cent of the debtors share 1.3 per cent of the deficit, 17 per cent of the debtors share in 2.1 per cent of the deficit value, which means that half of the debtors share only 3.4 per cent of the total deficit.

The rest 50 per cent of the debtors share 96.6 per cent of the deficit value, half of them share only 8.9 per cent of the deficit and the second half share 87.7 per cent.

Moreover, official statistics show that 99 individuals and establishments or just 7 per cent of the total debtors share 61.5 per cent of the deficit. Thus, we can simply conclude that the problem is a problem of few individuals and not a public issue, Saadoun said. He added that these individuals and economic establishments, if failed, won't lead to an economic catastrophe in Kuwait. The result of the government programme for settling these debts is that it has protected these deficit debtors from the law and in return we have got nothing for the public.

Saadoun added that the programme did not come to protect banks. This could have been done by backing the banks directly, without the matter coming through settling debts. Saadoun said. The banks had the right to refer these debtors to courts in order to ensure they are really in bad financial positions, and the programme stopped

this right. He said that besides harming the financial positions of the banks, the debts settlement programme protected defaulters and did not reward honest debtors who abide by the programme and paid everything they have. He described the programme as similar to the Manakh solutions. He said that because of the programme, the commercial banks reclaimed much less of what it could have in normal conditions. The result, he said, is that we have five banks out of six facing deficit, and that the Kuwaiti banks are classified as "risky banks".

He said that the programme did not solve the problem of the banks, but rather made more complicated and lead to increasing its financial deficits. About the government proposal to support the banks financially, he expected the amount to be between KD 700-1,000 million, stressing that had the government been more careful in scrutinising the financial positions of the "main debtors", it would have reclaimed much more than it is going to reclaim under the programme.

On his part, chairman of the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, Ali Rashid Al Bader, who spoke at the same seminar, hoped that the implementation of the economic recommendation would greatly benefit the Kuwaiti economy. He described the recommendations as "comprehensive and have tackled all the economic sectors." He predicted that the implementation of some of the recommendation would face a number of obstacles, but added that the government is serious in implementation.

Nazer in S.Korea to boost imports

SEOUL, Jan 22, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer arrived in Seoul today to discuss increasing South Korean imports of Saudi oil products. Energy Ministry officials here said.

Nazer, who is also acting Planning Minister, is expected to try to revitalise exports of Saudi crude oil and refined products to South Korea after a dramatic slowdown in 1988.

South Korea produces no oil and until 1987 bought most of its supply from Saudi Arabia. In recent years it has started diversifying away to Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

"We have a vested interest in expanding co-operation with Saudi Arabia - it's the world's largest oil producer and many of our construction firms are doing projects there," said one ministry official.

Nazer will meet President Roh Tae-woo, Deputy Prime Minister Cho Soon and other ministers as well as business leaders during his three-day visit.

Ministry officials said South Korea buys mainly crude oil, refined petroleum gas, naphtha, diesel oil and kerosene from Saudi Arabia, but would not give exact figures.

Meanwhile, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said that Saudi Arabia is not planning to invest in Japan's refining and retail oil market and Tokyo has not given the go-ahead for such a scheme.

Meetings in Riyadh on January 10 between a Japanese industry delegation and the kingdom's petroleum ministry focused on ensuring oil supplies to the region and the agenda of Nazer's visit to Tokyo next week, MEES said.

Japan imports more than two-thirds of its oil from the Gulf.

Khorafti in Paris for talks

PARIS, Jan 22, (Reuters): Kuwait Finance Minister, Jassem Al Khorafti arrived here today leading his country's delegation to meetings of the Franco-Kuwaiti joint economic commission.

The meetings, which will be chaired by Al Khorafti and the French Minister of Finance and Economy, Pierre Bergeyrov, are to tackle ways to promote economic and financial co-operation between the two countries.

The two ministers are scheduled to meet tonight informally during a dinner reception given by Al Khorafti at the residence of the Kuwaiti ambassador here, Dr Tariq Razouqui.

The reception will be attended by heads of several French enterprises, the Arab diplomatic corps and several government officials.

Al Khorafti and Bergeyrov will hold a round of official talks tomorrow evening at the headquarters of the Finance Ministry before dinner banquet to be given there by the French minister.

Arab states to launch a fund

Plan to expand trade

ABU DHABI, Jan 22, (Reuters): Arab states are to set up a fund with private sector help to boost trade between them, the Arab League's monetary chief said today.

The fund "will aim to develop national trade among Arab countries and boost competitiveness of Arab exports," Osama Al Faqih, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), said in a lecture.

He said Arab finance and economy ministers would meet in Abu Dhabi in April to launch the fund, which would have capital of \$500 million and operate from the AMF offices.

"We expect it to be successful because it is the first pan-Arab scheme in which the private sector plays a significant part," he said.

He hoped the new fund, which he will head, would finance trade worth \$1 billion per year at first and larger sums later.

The AMF would finance half the fund's capital. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development had agreed to put up \$100 million and Arab central and commercial banks \$50 million.

The remaining \$300 million would probably be arranged by April, half of it coming from the Islamic Development Bank.

Faqih said non-Arab banks would be allowed to take part in the fund, which would not cover oil or goods made in non-Arab countries.

Exports by the 21 Arab League states to each other peaked in 1986 at 9.2 per cent of

their total exports, falling to 7.4 per cent in 1988. Imports in 1988 were 7.7 per cent of total imports, down from a 1981 peak of 10.3 per cent. Inter-Arab trade totalled \$11.5 billion in 1988.

"The low level of trade among Arab states is among the basic problems facing their economies," Faqih said. "Lack of financing and customs and non-customs barriers are among the main reasons."

He said the new fund would co-operate with the Arab corporation for guaranteeing investment, which guarantees exports.

"The project will operate on a sheer commercial basis and this should attract more commercial banks, which have so far failed to play an effective role in inter-Arab trade, he added.

Chinese leader asks Japanese to invest

TOKYO, Jan 22, (Reuters): The first senior Chinese leader to visit Japan since the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations last June appealed to Japanese businessmen today to invest more in his country.

The response was more polite than positive. Zou Jiahua, chairman of the State Planning Commission, assured more than 300 businessmen in a Tokyo hotel that China's reform and open-door policies would not change.

He said the country was stable and that its cheap labour and resources offered great potential.

"Our lifting of martial law on January 11

was evidence of stability," he said. "Certain difficulties we are having in the economy are in the process of being overcome."

Lifting martial law, in force in Beijing since May 20, was set as a precondition by the West for normalising ties. Most Western nations froze political ties and cheap loans to protest against the June crackdown.

Zou's audience applauded warmly and his host, a leader of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade, praised the last 10 years as a period of stability and progress rare in China's history.

"Who wants to invest in China, especially after June 4," whispered one businessman. "If

we could make money there, we would all be there."

Official figures showed Japanese investment in China accounted for just 1.1 per cent of its total overseas investment at the end of last March, a third of its investment in Hong Kong and less than a quarter of that in Indonesia.

Questions raised by the audience skipped the main anxieties of Japanese corporations such as what happens when top leader Deng Xiaoping dies, will the Beijing public exact revenge and to which party faction is the army loyal?

Gold softens Dollar strengthens

LONDON, Jan 22, (UPI): The dollar closed higher against the major European currencies today. Gold was down sharply.

The dollar closed higher in Frankfurt at 1.722 German marks against Friday's close at 1.71 and also was higher in Zurich at 1.5265 Swiss francs against 1.5175, in Paris at 5.8430 French francs against 5.8240, in Brussels at 35.94 Belgian francs against 35.89, and in Milan at 1.278.10 lire against 1.276.05.

In London, the pound closed lower at \$1.6390 against \$1.6455 at Friday's close.

In Zurich, gold closed 41rs four lower at \$405.50 per ounce and also was lower in London closing at \$405.25 per ounce against \$410 per ounce.

Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$5.20 per ounce, but was lower in London at \$5.19 per ounce against \$5.22 per ounce.

In London shares weakened further in thin late trade as an early fall on Wall Street hurt sentiment in a market already depressed by an increasingly gloomy UK economic and corporate outlook, dealers said.

Stocks had been undermined earlier by signs UK production was slowing faster than expected while labour costs were still on the rise, dealers said. "It was an unwelcome reminder just how precariously balanced the economy will be this year between the hoped-for soft landing and full recession," said one.

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Bank profits jump

Record year for NBK

NATIONAL Bank of Kuwait has announced 1989 net profits of KD35 million (\$120 million) after transfers to provisions and free inner reserves, a 13 per cent increase over the previous year.

These results highlight another year of record profitability for NBK and a consistent trend achieved throughout the 1980s.

The transfer to free inner reserves after meeting the tight provisioning requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait is a conservative tradition that only very few Arab banks still follow.

National Bank's chairman, Mohammed Al Kharafi, announced a cash dividend of 20 per cent and a stock dividend (bonus shares) of 15 per cent.

Al Kharafi told reporters in Kuwait that the bank's 1989 performance "capped a successful decade for NBK, consolidating its status as the premier Arab bank in terms of consistent profitability, strategic direction and purposeful expansion abroad. It has successfully established itself in key international financial centres in order to serve its large home client base in Kuwait and the Gulf."

Noting that the past nine years have seen NBK emerge from a large domestic bank into an international Kuwaiti bank, Al Kharafi added that the 1989 results "reflect the twin themes of: firstly, continued diversification of the bank's product mix and secondly, on-going optimisation of asset and liability management policies."

NBK enjoys a pre-eminent role amongst Arab banks in delivering advanced financial services to other regional banks, as well as governmental, institutional, corporate and individual clients. "NBK's regional status is underpinned by its commitment to advances in information and delivery technology," added Al Kharafi.

"Products like WITS and our New York branch, a fully computerised dollar payment and clearing system, EFTPOS and advanced technology in ATMs in Kuwait are examples of such initiatives," he added.

"We are probably one of the few banks who transformed relationship banking into a corporate culture," added Al Kharafi "and as we enter the nineties, we believe we are well positioned domestically, regionally and internationally to provide our home market clientele with an expanded array of products and services."

Hang loose, thank you

DETROIT, Michigan, Jan 22 (AP): Park the latest General Motors Corporation concept truck near Walikiki beach and someone may toss a worn-out lei in the back. Or say "you're welcome."

In a linguistic gaffe, the world's largest automaker tagged its latest show pickup the Mahalo. In the recently ended North American international auto show, GM said the word meant "hang loose."

But Nobuo Lani Wallace, who teaches at the Centre for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii, said "Mahalo" means "thank you." He said it often appears on trash cans in the Aloha state to thank people for not littering.

Now, how many people would be willing to take their friends hunting in a pickup called a "thank you."

"Basically, what we found out is that we were wrong," a GMC spokesman said today.

KUWAIT, Jan 22 (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offer
1 month	8-5/16	8-1/2
3 months	8-5/16	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

Indian rupee 0.017300
Sri Lankan rupee 0.007400
Pakistani rupee 0.013790
Bangladesh taka 0.009000
US dollar 0.293200
Pound sterling 0.481750
AUS dollar 0.077990
Deutsche mark 0.170850
Japanese yen 0.002012

Japanese aid plays a key role, says analyst

TOKYO, Jan 22: From South Korea to Thailand, across the vibrant sweep of Pacific Asia, the hum of economic activity has become almost deafening. And for the most part, the tune these countries are playing has been composed in Japan.

Even the casual traveller through Asia cannot help but feel the increasing dominance that Japan exerts over the economic life of the globe. The streets are filled with Toyotas and the homes with Sony televisions. The roads and dams are constructed with Japanese foreign aid. And the new factories, which employ millions of Asian workers, are financed by Japanese corporations.

A few simple facts bear this out: Japan provides 65 per cent of all the funds (both government aid and private investment) that flow into the rest of Pacific Asia.

Japan is the largest aid donor to every country in Asia except Pakistan, and the source of 64 per cent of the aid to the developing countries of Southeast Asia.

Japan's total trade with Asia is now the largest of any nation, and its imports from Pacific Asia have almost doubled in the past two years.

"Japan is the most important player," says Thai economist Tawatchai Yongkitikul. "For the most part, Europe has ignored this part of the world."

And increasingly, so has the United States. "Something went wrong in the US," says Yongkitikul, the director of the Thailand Development Research Institute, who laments the loss of competitiveness in US industry.

The degree of dependence is worrisome even to those who welcome Japan's economic role.

"We need balance," says Thai economist Surakant. "The whole world relies on Japanese industry, what will happen?" he asks rhetorically. Some others, in Asia and outside, are concerned that

Japan is trying to rebuild the "Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere," as its World War II propaganda called it — this time without using military force.

But most experts interviewed in Japan, the US, and in key Asian nations say Japan's apparent domination is not the product of a concerted plan to gain regional hegemony. Rather, it is the result of market forces as Japan adjusts to the leap in the yen's value since late 1985.

A September 1985 agreement among the major industrial nations to force a realignment of currency values triggered a sharp decline in the dollar and a rapid rise of the Japanese yen, along with the German mark.

The aim was to reverse the American trade imbalance by making US products cheaper and foreign goods more expensive.

Japan's huge trade surplus has declined somewhat, as imports grew by 14 per cent in 1987 and 25 per cent in 1988. Domestic demand, rather than exports, became the driving factor for growth.

The currency change also had the effect of transforming Japan into the largest source of capital in the world. By late 1986, in dollar terms, Japan's wealth had increased by about 50 per cent.

But for Asia, the major effect of the yen's rise was to boost the cost of production at home. In response, Japanese firms moved increasing amounts of their production overseas in search of cheaper labour, land and other costs.

"It is like the late 1950s and early 1960s, when US multinational companies shifted capital massively to Europe," contends Akira Kojima, economic writer for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan's largest financial daily.

For the short term, shipments of equipment for the plants have helped keep overall Japanese exports high. But as happened before with the US, analysts say that the investment will

Japanese & US Economic Stake in Asia (in billions of US dollars-1987)		
	JAPAN	US
Aggregate Direct Investment	\$125.7	\$125.2
Official Development Assistance (ODA)	69.1	42.0
	59.4	83.2
	33.3	30.6
	3.4	1.7
Total	\$162.4	\$157.5

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), US Commerce Department (Survey of Current Business), Japan Institute of Social and Economic Affairs. Asia includes South, Southeast, East Asia, Oceania, Australia, and New Zealand. US trade data does not include Japan.

ultimately reduce Japan's trade surplus.

While the main recipients of Japanese investment have been the US and Europe, a significant share has gone into Asia. Compared with other parts of the developing world, Pacific Asia economies are geographically close, culturally familiar, politically stable, and economically dynamic.

"I don't have much hope for Africa because of the lack of education," says Jiro Tokuyama, head of the Center for Pacific Business Studies at the Mitsui Research Institute.

The Middle East is embroiled in constant conflict, he adds. And with the exception of Mexico, South American nations are embedded in debt while their "rich people send their money out to Europe and the US."

Before 1985, Japanese investment was also focused in the US, Europe and Asia, but was mainly aimed at penetrating the markets of recipient countries.

The new flood of investment seeks to improve the competitive position of Japanese companies by producing goods in countries such as Thailand and Malaysia and then exporting them to the US, Europe and back

into Japan.

"This creates a new type of division of labour," says Kojima. Mitsubishi Automobile Company, for example, produces car parts in Taiwan and Malaysia and ships them to Bangkok, where the car is finally produced and then exported to Canada.

Japanese policymakers see their relationship with Asia as one of mutual interest, feeding Japan's growth while promoting the emergence of new industrial powers such as South Korea.

"We recognize the success of the development of the other Asian countries will have long-term benefit to us," asserts former Foreign Minister Saito, a leading advocate of Pacific co-operation.

"Markets will expand, living standards will increase and purchasing power will grow."

Dr Okita made famous the metaphor of a wedge of flying geese, with Japan in the lead and opening the door for the countries that follow. The first wave of industrialization was Japan, he says, followed by the second wave of the Asian newly industrialising economies (NIEs), known as the "four tigers" — Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea. The "third wave" is led

by Thailand and Malaysia, with the Philippines, Indonesia, and coastal China (where there are free economic zones) behind them.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a six-nation regional group of countries — all of which are benefiting by various industrialising waves. ASEAN includes Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The wedge concept envisions stages of linked development. Japan shifts its labour-intensive industries such as textiles and consumer electronics to the "geese" behind it as it moves into more advanced industries. The NIEs, as they move ahead, do the same.

This is already seen in the post-1985 structural change. As the currencies of major trade surplus nations such as Taiwan and South Korea have begun to set up plants in the less-developed parts of Asia.

In Thailand, the new boom economy in Asia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong are the second- and third-largest sources of investment following Japan, with the US slipping to fourth, barely ahead of Singapore and Korea.

Japanese aid plays a key role in promoting this process, says Naohito Maruyama, a senior analyst at the government-linked Institute for Developing Economies. Aid to poorer countries, such as Burma, Bangladesh, or China, focuses on building basic infrastructure, such as transportation systems or electric power generation, encouraging private investment to follow.

When basic economic conditions are established, the focus of aid shifts to supporting industry, Maruyama explains. In Indonesia and Malaysia, for example, Japanese aid has encouraged development of the timber and aluminium industries. In

Thailand, the development specialists say, aid is used to "graduate" countries such as South Korea, providing for example, loans to Korean government banks to finance Korean private companies.

Aid, trade, and investment are linked by "the idea of integrating these economies into the Japanese economy," argues Richard Cronin, a specialist in Asian affairs at the Congressional Research Service in Washington.

The strategy has produced results in the emergence of Asia as the growth center of the world economy. But it masks certain key conflicts. Cronin says. The division of labour "implies a certain degree of status — the Japanese are always going to be higher up on the technological chain."

Asian critics complain that while Japanese investment provides employment, Japanese companies are slow to transfer technology and to localise all aspects of production.

Japanese companies see these countries as export bases, bringing in parts and components from Japan, assembling them with cheap labour and exporting them, Asian experts say.

Japanese foreign aid is another source of controversy, with critics charging it mostly benefits Japanese construction firms and companies who get most of the contracts. "In many cases, Japanese aid is meaningless," asserts Shizuka Kamei, a conservative member of Japan's parliament. "Japanese contractors are just making profits off those projects."

But the key test of whether Japan's role is truly for mutual benefit, most analysts agree, is that it is willing not only to shift technology and production, but to become a market for Asian-made goods. "Japan must become a very large absorber of the

products of these countries, otherwise the process doesn't work," Dr Okita says.

Asian nations complain of barriers to the Japanese market, but there are some signs of change. While the US is still the largest market for most Asian nations, exports to the US are slowing as those to Japan grow rapidly.

In the past, Japan predominantly imported raw materials and processed them into manufactured goods. But since 1985, the proportion of imports that are manufactured goods has grown from 31 per cent to almost 50 per cent in 1988. From the Asian NIEs, the proportion is even higher — 72.9 per cent — reflecting a large part of the importing of goods such as consumer electronics made in Japanese company plants in those countries.

A special study group of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry argues that the growth of intra-Asian trade would benefit the world economy. With Japan playing the role of major importer, Asian exporters will lessen their dependence on the US market, helping to reduce the American trade deficit.

And the growth of all Asian economies would cushion the world from the impact of a recession in the US, which some economists predict.

This "thickening" of intra-Asian interdependence is well under way. Japan's total trade with Asia, which grew by about 57 per cent between 1985 and 1988, is now larger than its trade with the US. Overall, intra-Asian trade is also growing rapidly.

This year, for the first time, the total imports of Asia surpassed those of the US, totalling about \$600 billion.

"I hope US business goes out there (to Asia)," says economist Tokuyama. "The demand for goods in the coming 20 to 30 years is endless."

— The Christian Science Monitor

Japan to resume lending to Beijing

Loans for projects involving human needs

TOKYO, Jan 22 (Reuters): Japan has decided to resume limited government loans to Beijing during a visit by the head of China's state planning commission to discuss full restoration of economic ties, officials and diplomats said today.

They also said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's worsening plight could help China improve ties with the West.

A government official said Japan had agreed to grant loans for projects involving "human needs," a decision conveyed in Beijing last week by a Japanese foreign ministry official.

The loans, part of an 810 billion-yen (\$5.6 billion) package promised for 1990-95, were suspended in protest against China's military crackdown on pro-democracy protests in June last year. Credits from the World Bank and other Western governments were also suspended.

The loans will be discussed during talks this week in Tokyo between Japanese leaders and the head of the commission, Zou Jiahua, the first Chinese leader to visit Japan since the crackdown.

Today, Zou met Minister of International Trade and Industry Hikaru Matsunaga as well as former Premier Noboru Take-

shita and Shintaro Abe.

After the lifting of martial law in Beijing earlier this month, the United States announced it would lift its ban on World Bank loans and support those involving "human needs." Japan is following the same policy, the official said.

For China, the resumption of the loans represents a vital first step to the full restoration of economic ties with the Western world, from which it urgently needs investment and technology as well as loans.

An Asian diplomat said the plight of Soviet leader Gorbachev was a blessing in disguise for Beijing.

"If Gorbachev fell from power, he would be replaced by a hardliner, who might form an alliance with the hardliners in Beijing," he said. "This is the US strategic nightmare. The worse Gorbachev looks, the softer (US President George) Bush will be towards China."

The government official said the importance of Zou's visit was symbolic, in showing that Japanese leaders would meet a top Chinese official, but would not have concrete results.

"The key to unlocking (all) the loans and with it commercial

credit lies with the World Bank. Japan has no independent policy, so its leaders are limited in what they can promise Zou. They will be full of platitudes," he added.

Japanese banks are set to resume lending discreetly to China with the blessing of Japan's Ministry of Finance, banking sources said today.

Japanese bankers said they had received signals recently indicating they would be able formally to resume lending to Beijing in February.

A loan of \$30 million will be granted to one of the eight national Chinese import-export corporations in Beijing by a consortium of three Japanese banks, sources close to the banks said.

"The (Japanese) Ministry of Finance did not signal any dissatisfaction with the deal last week," one source said.

The loan was being arranged by CICC Finance, a Hong Kong-based joint-venture of US, Japanese and Chinese banks.

Some Japanese banks have already begun quietly contacting potential Chinese borrowers with non-committal loan proposals, banking sources said. They have told Chinese bor-



China's Planning Minister Zou Jiahua (right) shakes hands with Japanese Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga at the start of their talks at a Tokyo hotel. Zou is the first Chinese leader to visit the West since the June military crackdown on student-led protests. (Reuters wirephoto)

owners the range of terms they can expect when lending resumes.

"It looks like a Grand Prix, they are almost at the starting line and are raring to go," said one source.

"They said they can join in some loans for small amounts before the World Bank resumes lending to China as long as there is no publicity," another banking source said.

UK labour costs rising

Industrial output dips

LONDON, Jan 22 (Reuters): British labour costs are rising but industrial output is down as a result of relatively high interest rates the government has imposed in its fight against inflation, official figures released today showed.

"Our problem is we are spending too much and producing too little," said Steven Bell, chief economist at London merchant bank Morgan Grenfell.

The Department of Employment said average unit wage and salary costs in manufacturing rose an annual 5.6 per cent in the three months to November, after rising a revised year-on-year 5.1 per cent in the three months to October.

The Central Statistical Office reported manufacturing production fell a provisional, seasonally adjusted 0.7 per cent in November after a revised one per cent increase in October.

Industrial output, which includes oil and gas production, dipped 0.5 per cent in November after a 0.9 per cent increase in October. Britain is Western Europe's biggest petroleum producer.

Bell described the output figure as "pretty awful". "For most of our competitors, that number is nil or negative," he added.

Algeria's current economic problems stem from the 1980s oil price collapse which forced drastic cuts in imports and an austerity drive.

Some 95 per cent of all Algeria's foreign currency earnings come from oil and gas exports. To wean the economy off this dependency, economic reforms are designed to allow more competition and give the small private sector room to grow.

Most independent analysts agree the economic outlook is unlikely to improve for some time and could get worse in the short term.

Bid to ease controls on economy

Iran to legalise money-changers

NICOSIA, Jan 22 (Reuters): Iran said today it was legalising money changing, outlawed and reviled as a parasitic profession soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The measure announced by the Central Bank is the latest by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government to ease state controls on the economy and promote the private sector.

A statement by the bank read on Tehran radio said prospective money-changers who have "general qualifications," a permanent place of business and guarantees of at least 100 million rials (\$1.4 million at the official exchange rate) may apply for a permit from Saturday.

The policy aimed at regulating the free market in foreign exchange, preventing currency violations and ending street-corner deals, it said.

A London-based Iranian foreign exchange dealer predicted little change as the result of the new policy because other banking services offered by currency dealers before the revolution remain banned.

"We used to keep people's deposits. We bought gold and businessmen's promissory notes," Ali Pakpour told Reuters by telephone.

"We virtually acted as a building society in Britain. But many of these services are now banned in Iran as usurious."

Pakpour said the open market dollar rose to 1,170 rials on Sunday, a gain of 10 rials on Saturday and 30 rials on Thursday, because of tight supplies of foreign exchange.

State banks sell dollars to a designated group of businesses for 800 rials at a "competitive rate". The official rate, used mainly for state exports of basic goods, is 71 rials per dollar.

Money-changers were banned after the 1979 revolution but the government largely tolerated the foreign exchange black market.

Newspapers and officials frequently attack currency dealers as speculators who make huge profits and fuel inflation.

ALGIERS, Jan 22 (Reuters): Algeria's taxi-

drivers all share the same nightmare — a minor hump that could put them out of business for months.

With spare parts so hard to obtain, battered old taxis apparently held together by string, wire and tape are commonplace in this once strictly socialist state now pursuing economic and political reforms.

"We have to make do as best we can," said Mohamed Djouf, who works in the capital, Algiers. His brother-in-law Hachene has been out of work for months since his Peugeot 505 broke down for lack of proper servicing.

Obtaining such items as windshield wipers, windows, door handles or spark plugs requires skills more normally associated with the country's high reputation as one of the world's great diplomatic mediators.

"It is just not good business driving a taxi people have difficulty getting in and out of," joked Mohamed.

The daily problems faced by Algerian taxi-drivers highlight the enormity of the government's declared aim — trying to inject market forces into a centrally-planned economy.

Shortages are common in Algeria. Returning migrant workers can often be seen at Algiers airport loaded down with bags of bananas — so rare they are considered a luxury — and other goods ranging from coffee to spare tires.

Consequently, a thriving black market has grown up. It is no uncommon for foreigners to be offered five to six times the official rate to change hard currency.

The government is trying to make the economy, based almost entirely on oil and gas revenues, more efficient by injecting market forces to stimulate productivity. But the accompanying political reforms are complicating its task.

Since President Chadli Benjedid accelerated the reform programme after bloody anti-austerity youth riots in October 1988, Algeria has become one of the Arab world's most liberal countries.

UK labour costs rising

Industrial output dips

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APC to expand capacity

Potash earnings jump

AMMAN, Jan 22 (Reuters): Jordan's Dead Sea potash industry, aided by firm prices and a lower dinar, boosted earnings and profits in 1989, managing director Ali Ensour said today.

Potash, a fertilizer ingredient, accounts for about a fifth of Jordan's visible exports.

Ensour told Reuters the Arab Potash Company (APC) sold 1.25 million tonnes of potash for \$125 million, compared to 1988 sales of 1.3 million tonnes for \$120 million.

Gross profit rose to 38 million dinars (\$57 million) from 14 million (\$21 million) in 1988, when APC made its first profit since production began in 1983. "We expect to sell 1.35 million tonnes this year and earn 130 to \$135 million," Ensour said.

The company hoped to recoup accumulated losses of 40 million dinars (\$60 million) by the end of 1990. No dividends would be paid until losses had been covered, which lost 26 per cent of its dollar value last year, had swelled direct profits.

Jordan, which has a 54 per cent stake in the pan-Arab APC, began charging royalties of three dinars a tonne last April, but the debt-laden company remains exempt from tax.

Other APC shareholders include the Arab Mining Company, with 25 per cent, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank.

Bombay shares

Dunlop	30.50	30.50	31	Siemens	105	107	103
Elcom	62	62.50	62	SKF	1380	1350	1340
El Hoops	63	60	62.75	SP	54	54.50	53.50
Escorts	81.50	83	82	St Mills	65	64	64.50
BSE Index	710.75			Tata Oil			
Eskafey	145	142.50	135	Tata Tea	127.50	127.50	125.50
Esar Sp	29	28	27.75	Tata Row	145	140	140
Food Sp	103	106.25	103.75	Telco	117.50	118	116
Gas	30	30	30	Thappu Agar			
Gar Poly	45	44	43	Tisco	107.75	108	107.50
Gindia	105	105	103.50	Tyco	142.50	141.25	142.50
GNPC	39.50	39	37.75	Vand Org	22.50	21.25	23.75
Grasim	114	113.50	113	Vareli	690	710	690
GSE Shrip	48	43.50	47.50	Voltas	24.75	25	23.25
GSFC	162.50	162.50	165	Wimco	38	36	38
Guj Ali	62	61.50	61	Zenith	50	50	50
Guy Heavy	16	15.50	15.50	Zuari Agro	60	58	60
Hero Hoada	18	17	17				
Hero Cycles	126.75	127	126.50	Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.			
Hitler Lever	105	105	102.50				

Turner and Hooch the odd partners



Tom Hanks

"TURNER and Hooch": Tom Hanks plays Scott Turner, a compulsively neat police detective forced to bunk with a drooling junkyard dog named Hooch, who happens to be the only witness to a murder. Talk about your odd couple. The massive mastiff, of course, brings immediate chaos to Turner's structured life, trashing his home, his car, his office, his plans, a sort of canine terminator who eventually helps Turner catch the culprits — a clear case for cops and slobbers. Fast-paced and frequently funny, with another understated comic turn by Hanks that even Hooch cannot upstage. The deadly trail of corruption and conspiracy takes a back seat to the movie's real theme: The pleasures and perils of caring for a pet. If you can see the bumbling Hooch as a pet, 1989, 99 minutes.

"New York Stories": Life in the big city, as seen in this trio of short stories, is big on fantasy, with a bow now and then in the direction of reality. "Life Lessons," directed by Martin Scorsese, tells of a world-famous, love-sick painter (Nick Nolte) torn between his art and a hopeless romance with his beautiful assistant (Rosanna Arquette). "Life Without Zee," directed by Francis Coppola, recounts the exploits of a poor little rich girl (Heather McCormick), a very grown-up 12-year-old trying to reunite her childhood parents (Talia Shire and Giancarlo Giannini). And, "Oedipus Wrecks," written, directed and starring Woody Allen, is all about a neurotic lawyer trying to escape the smothering influence of his mother who literally hovers over him after a magician's trick goes haywire. Pleasant, lightweight viewing, 1989, 126 minutes.

"Karate Kid III": Ralph Macchio is back a third time as karate champion Daniel LaRusso, who wants to retire but is going into defending his title against a vicious challenger, over the objections of his dignified and wise mentor, Mr. Miyagi (Noriyuki "Pat" Morita). Daniel is unaware he's actually being set up for a brutal beating in an elaborate revenge scheme by his new instructor (Thomas Ian Griffith), who backed the losers in the previous chap-

ter. The bad guys, are almost cartoonish in their fiendish glee which, of course, doesn't last long. All very predictable, a popular series that's now losing its kick 1989, 111 minutes.

"See You in the Morning": This alluring, buoyant love story tells of two survivors of shattered marriages determined to make it work the second time around — despite a "Musical Family" balancing act that defies the odds. A divorced psychiatrist (Jeff Bridges in a strong performance) marries a young widow (Alice Krige), whose concert pianist husband killed himself. There are the usual problems — each has two children who find accepting a new parent neither easy nor guilt-free. Then, ex-wife Farrah Fawcett, who had opted for the glamorous jet set crowd, comes back on the scene. 1989, 119 minutes.

"Northwest Passage": The grand and gritty tale of Rogers' Rangers tramping through an uncharted wilderness in open new territory in colonial America, taking danger and hardships in stride, driven by a stern taskmaster who kept them both on course and alive. Spencer Tracy stars as the stoic leader with Robert Young and Walter Brennan as a pair of recruits in this 1940 adventure yarn making its home video debut. 126 minutes.

Billboard's top 10 rentals:
1. When Harry Met Sally... — Nelson Home Entertainment
2. Ghostbusters II — RCA Columbia Pictures Home Video
3. Road House — MGM-UA Home Video
4. See No Evil, Hear No Evil — RCA Columbia Pictures Home Video
5. Star Trek V: The Final Frontier — Paramount Home Video
6. K-9 — MCA Home Video
7. Lock Up — Live
8. Batman — Warner Home Video
9. Scrooged — Paramount Home Video
10. Great Balls of Fire — Orion Home Video

Soviet rock opera

Celebrating a new beginning

NEW YORK (AP): The first Soviet rock opera, a production that dates from the Brezhnev era, has come to New York with the original cast but new optimism.

In the concluding scene, the narrator tells the audience that the opera's Russian hero and his American lover tried to bridge the distance between the two countries with Love. The entire cast of 60 then sings "Hallelujah" with such abandon that the tragic finale is all but forgotten.

"Eight years ago, when we sang 'Hallelujah' about a Soviet-American love affair, it was virtually an act of sedition," Yelena Shamina, the lead female singer, recalls.

"Now, it's celebrating a new beginning." Even the name of the opera has changed with the times. To the original title, "Junon and Avos," producers Lucy Jarvis and Pierre Cardin have attached a subtitle: "The Hope."

Whether the good feelings and exotic music will succeed in filling New York's City Centre theatre for the five-week run is still uncertain. A spokesman said ticket sales were slow before the Jan. 5, opening but have picked up since the first reviews — favourable though not ecstatic — appeared last week.

Regardless of whether the \$2-million production is a commercial success, its arrival represents the culmination of an extraordinary political journey.

When it somehow squeaked past the censors in 1981, the opera caused a sensation in Moscow. Though set in 1806, it contained a thinly disguised caricature of Leonid Brezhnev as a doddering old man with a chest full of medals and a gold mask with huge eyebrows.

That, alone, might have ensured a throng of Soviet theatregoers. But Andrei Vosnesensky, a leading Soviet poet, added two other politically daring elements in his libretto. One was a reverent treatment of religious symbols, including words from the Russian Orthodox mass.

The other was an implied message that the Soviet Union shared the blame for an impasse in relations with the United States. That message was expressed through the story of Count Nikolai Rezanov, who courageously sailed off to explore trading links with California — then a Spanish colony — and falls in love with the governor's daughter.

"Junon and Avos," named for Rezanov's two ships, ends in tragedy as politics and illness foil Rezanov's mission and separate him from his lover, the beautiful Cochina. She waits 35 years for his return, then enters a convent when she learns he died before obtaining the czar's permission to marry her.

Vosnesensky says the plot is loosely based on historical truth — there was, indeed, a Count Rezanov who helped found the Russian-American Trading Co., travelled to California in 1806 and died in Siberia on his way home.

But the rest of the story is pure fiction. Vosnesensky now acknowledges that he conceived it, following the outline of his earlier poem "Avos," as a metaphor for the strained Soviet-American relations of the Brezhnev era.

"My hero, historical Count Rezanov, was not a great fighter for freedom. But I have put in his mouth all the words of our intellectuals," Vosnesensky said in an interview in New York.

"When he says 'The Russian empire is a prison,' our audiences understood what I was saying, didn't try to hurry."

McCormick treated three horses Ms. Beveridge planned to take to Florida for winter shows. He worked quickly, inserting needles into the horses' backs, haunches and legs as she held their halters.

A chestnut roan swung its head in a half-hearted attempt to nip McCormick, an expert on such equine disrespect after having horses kick him in the face and lie down on him. The worst he's suffered is a broken tooth.

"Working back on this end, a kick could kill you," McCormick said as he inserted needles in an animal's hindquarters.

He administered a mild sedative to two of the horses to cut down on rambunctious behaviour as he made his way under and around them. He said the needles themselves cause little pain and rarely require anesthesia.

While needles are the preferred implement, portable, battery-operated lasers sometimes are used on sensitive reflex points because they are less intrusive than needles. Ultrasound machines provide deep heat and are useful for such diseases as arthritis.

In addition to chronic pain, acupuncture is used to treat a wide variety of animal ailments, including reproductive, urinary tract and abdominal problems, though McCormick said it's not effective for such problems as broken limbs or acute bacterial infections that require antibiotics.

He recalled the case of an expensive race horse with an abdominal problem. The owner spent \$5,000 for surgery and \$5,000 for treatment of colitis, but the horse kept having pain.

Oh no! not again Venice in grip of rock shock

VENICE, Italy, (AP): Even as Venice enjoys a winter hibernation that allows the city to take steps to recover from the nearly deserted squares, the specter of Pink Floyd refuses to go away. A summer concert by the band, a rock group that drew more than 100,000 young people and left the city awash in garbage is a recurring nightmare.

It is being used as ammunition in a battle being waged over a bid to make Venice the site of an international fair in the year 2000 and has led officials to bar carnival celebrations from famed St. Mark's Square.

Pink Floyd was allowed to perform on a floating stage in the Venice lagoon in July after the rock group agreed to reduce its decibel level to protect the colonnaded square and ninth-century Basilica.

But the trash left behind by the concertgoers and the sight of thousands sleeping in the streets proved too much for many Venetians.

St. Mark's, said fine arts commissioner Margherita Asso in hatching the annual carnival from the massive square, "was attacked by vandals and there wasn't and still isn't sufficient police protection."

So carnival will go on in other parts of the city judged less fragile, inaugurated Feb. 10, by a procession up the grand canal led by a 75-foot-long (25-metre-long) floating replica of a bottle of Italian bubbly.

Pre-Lent merrymaking is not the only talk of Venice. There is also the bid, put forward by the Veneto region, to make Venice and nearby cities the site of Expo 2000.

Backers include such powerful figures as Venetian-born Foreign Minister Ciriaco De Michelis, who also supported the Pink Floyd concert. The Socialist official, the author of a guide to discos in Italy, had said Venice must be open to all forms of culture, including rock music.

The fair is seen as a way of breathing new life into this city of canals and marble palaces, whose year-round population has dwindled to 80,000 from 130,000 over the past 25 years. Exhibitions would feature

science and culture.

With the proper controls, said De Michelis, Expo 2000 would be "the right way to bring Venice into the new century."

Those in favour insist the fair could attract new businesses and lead to the renovation of housing and neighbourhood that have decayed as young people have gone to the mainland in search of jobs.

They have left Venice to the summer tourists and, to the lament of many locals, cheap souvenir shops and pizza parlours catering to day-trippers with backpacks. Such tourism has inspired calls for daily quotas on the number of visitors.

"I am one of those who believe the idea (of a fair) should be examined, not just written off," said Venice's cultural commissioner, Fulgenzio Livieri, sitting in his office looking out onto St. Mark's Square, frequented by almost as many pigeons as people this time of the year.

He sees it as an opportunity to attract two industries "ideally suited" to the lagoon city — films and fashion.

But Livieri admits that the "Pink Floyd effect" is still running strong.

Graffiti and posters declaring "no to expo" have gone up in the distinctive narrow lanes near the Rialto bridge, while someone has scrawled "De Michelis, repeat" on the causeway linking Venice to Mestre on the mainland.

In December, a small group of Venetians took their protest to Paris, holding up signs outside the offices of the international committee that will select the host city. The other candidates are Hannover, West Germany, and Toronto, Canada.

The committee is expected to make its decision in June. For a city so dependent on outsiders, even those catering to tourists seem to have had their fill and hope Venice is kept out of the plans.

The newsweekly Panorama reported that one study predicts a fair would attract more than 100,000 people a day during the four-month period, paralyse the city and strain services to the breaking point.

Famous Hollywood girls team up Steel Magnolias

FIVE of Hollywood's most acclaimed actresses, three of them Oscar winners, have combined forces to star in a new block-busting movie.

Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field, Olympia Dukakis, who have all won Academy Awards, Dolly Parton and Daryl Hannah appear in the film Steel Magnolias, the true story of a group of women in small-town America.

Writer Robert Harling turned to his own heartbreak at the death of his sister for inspiration for the film, which started off as an off-Broadway play.

Harling wrote the original play after his sister Susan died. She had made the decision to have a baby, even though doctors had warned it might kill her.

Now the real-life story of how Susan Harling's mother and female friends rallied round her has come to the big screen.

Julia Roberts plays Shelby, the young bride who goes against doctors' advice and has a child.

The film, which begins with a wedding and ends with the bride's funeral, is, despite its down-beat story line, a celebration of life... and a comedy.

Sally Field plays M'Lynn, Shelby's warm-hearted but strong-willed mother, who is forced to suppress her protective instincts when her diabetic daughter announces she is expecting a child.

But she can't help being impressed by Shelby's love of life and her conviction that "she would rather have 30 minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special."

Shelby's certainty that nothing is impossible does more than just rally the love and support of her friends. It also sparks them into action to take chances in their own routine lives.

Robert Harling said: "This is basically the story of what my mother and sister went through and the community of women that surrounded them."

The characters, with their ability to remain cheerful, even when faced with tragedy, were inspired by the people living in the small Louisiana town of Natchitoches, where Harling grew up.

The town, which in the film is called Chinquapin, has produced more than its share of larger-than-life, legendary figures, many of them strong, proud women who have sustained the community through hard times. Locals call these women "steel magnolias."

Harling said: "What I remember most about the town is how everyone was able to look at their own faults and laugh at them. A real hallmark of the people of Natchitoches is that with their sense of humour, nothing can get them so down that they can't find something to help them through it."

Oscar-winning actress Shirley MacLaine plays Ouiser Boudreaux, the town's misery-guts whose complaints and sharp tongue hide a heart of gold.

Olympia Dukakis plays her closest friend, the elegant widow Clairee Belcher. Dukakis won an Oscar for her performance in Moonstruck.

Dolly Parton is Truvy Jones, the owner of the town's beauty salon where the women congregate to share their gossip.

She takes in the town's newcomer, the mousy Annette Dupuy, played by Daryl Hannah.

Sally Field won Academy Awards for her performance in Norma Rae and Places in the Heart. But she is best known for her role in the Smokey and the Bandit films, opposite Burt Reynolds.

Steel Magnolias also stars Tom Skerritt as Sally Field's husband Drum and Sam Shepard as Spud Jones, who is married to Truvy, played by Dolly Parton.



Top to bottom: the famous five: (clockwise) Shirley MacLaine, Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Daryl Hannah, Julia Roberts and Olympia Dukakis. Co-stars Sam Shepard (B) and Tom Skerritt (C).

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: While roughhousing with the boys, my hand was cut accidentally by their teeth. It wasn't a deep cut, but it was bleeding quite a bit, so I went to the emergency room to have it taken care of. I was surprised when the doctor did not sew it up and left it with just a dressing. Was this the right care?

ANSWER: Yes, it was. The simple fact is that routine care of human bite wounds does not require suturing. However, such bite wounds should be scrubbed and cleaned thoroughly to prevent infection, and antibiotics may be prescribed when there seems to be a definite chance of contamination and possible resulting infection.

Despite the fact that some human bite injuries may look fairly trivial, no matter how innocent or superficial the bite, a doctor should be consulted. It appears, a doctor should be consulted. It is not the extent of the wound that is of chief concern, but the possibility of infection that can follow this type of injury. Untreated wounds often progress to "acute necrotizing soft tissue infections," a condition in which there is much damage from the death of cells and can have devastating effects.

If a bite wound is superficial, the doctor may immobilize the hand after cleaning it, making a splint using a plaster of paris slab or using light-weight aluminum or plastic splints. An oral antibiotic that

is effective against germs normally are found in such wounds is usually indicated.

The hand should be kept elevated, using a sling and second visit to the doctor is recommended within 24 hours so that additional evaluation can be made.

If the wound is deeper, treatment begins the same way, with careful cleaning. If tissue damage has occurred, the dead tissue is removed by a surgical technique called debridement. Antibiotics are useful here as well. Tetanus vaccination is also administered, to prevent "lockjaw."

In the cases where there are severe bites that penetrate a joint or tendon, hospitalization may be required for surgical repair of the wound and the continuous administration of intravenous antibiotics.

QUESTION: I have a very nice, large aloe vera plant growing on my window sill. Friends tell me it's "juicy" is a good treatment for burns and that using the sap will prevent scar formation. Is that true?

ANSWER: It depends upon the type of burn you use the aloe sap to treat. If you have a superficial burn or abrasion, gel from a leaf of the plant may be soothing and perhaps mildly healing. There is

Human bite should be treated by doctor

some scientific evidence to support that, but the gel does not prevent scarring.

Should you suffer a more intense or deeper burn, (a second- or third-degree burn) or if your wound becomes infected and/or cracked, applying aloe gel could do more harm than good. When applied to the skin, aloe vera gel, itself, is seldom irritating. Yet, a plant leaf placed directly on a burn can be treacherous because the latex that is also found in the leaf is a powerful laxative. With some additional care, you can avoid the latex by scraping gel from inside the leaf.

If there is any doubt about the severity of a burn, forget about your aloe vera plant and see your physician immediately. There are more effective and less doubtful methods for treating these injuries, which may be prone to complications of infection if not dealt with properly.

QUESTION: Despite all precautions, and vast quantities of over-the-counter medications, I have a case of athlete's foot that just won't quit. I change my socks once or twice during each game of basketball, use foot powder and the like, all to no avail. What am I doing wrong?

ANSWER: Your stubborn foot problem might not be athlete's foot at all. Many people today are sensitive to the dyes and synthetics that go into the

making of shoes, socks and stockings. The symptoms of this contact dermatitis are remarkably similar to those of athlete's foot: scaling, fissuring (splitting in the skin), itching.

With contact dermatitis, however, itching begins early, swelling is common, and, a big clue, the webs between the toes are symptomatic, a site where athlete's foot usually strikes. Another broad hint is that contact dermatitis does not respond to the antifungal medications that the drugstore stocks for athlete's foot.

You are going to have to change your treatment strategy. The treatment for feet with contact dermatitis is wet packs soaked with Burrow's solution, available at any pharmacy. If the problem is very severe or does not respond to simple soaks, it may "occlusive therapy," where the cream is applied overnight and the feet are sealed in plastic bags (sandwich bags will do) overnight.

The sure way of identifying the offending footwear and/or chemicals that are causing the problem. For this you will need to have a patch test performed, which can help to isolate the exact cause of the rash. Then get rid of those shoes that have been the source of all your foot problems.

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Needling horses back to health

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia, (AP): The patient quivered as William McCormick applied pressure to pinpoint the source of back pain. Then he inserted a needle. No problem this time, though sometimes the patients try to bite — or kick.

McCormick, one of about 125 US veterinarians certified to practice acupuncture, says the therapy used by the Chinese on humans and animals for 3,500 years is an effective alternative in Western medicine. "The potential is vast. I feel each time I do it I'm touching on new ground."

Acupuncture, whether in humans or animals, consists of stimulating specific points on the surface of the body. Traditionally, the stimulus is insertion of extremely fine needles; more recently, ultrasound and lasers also are used.

In traditional Chinese thought, each human or animal is born with a fixed amount of energy, called "chi." Energy imbalance, from external or internal causes, is thought to be the underlying reason for disease. By treating certain reflex points, the acupuncturist helps the body balance its own vital energies.

Laboratory studies have found that this balancing occurs primarily through the nervous system, although physiological mechanisms such as hormones also are involved, the international veterinary acupuncture society says. Balancing can adjust blood flow, nerve and muscle tone, hormone levels or organ function.

Dr. Meredith L. Snader of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, executive secretary of the society, says acupuncture exclusively in her practice.

"People are looking to alternative methods of

treatment rather than going to drugs," Ms. Snader said. "The public is demanding that we change instead of pumping animals full of medication."

The American Veterinary Medical Association endorsed acupuncture in 1988 as valid treatment, but it hasn't been totally accepted by veterinarians. "Some think it's pretty strange and others accept it quite readily," said McCormick. Ms. Snader said her colleagues were skeptical when she started using acupuncture eight years ago. "It didn't bother me, I said, just give me a chance. Now most of them are very willing. Now they refer clients to me."

Acupuncture makes up a major part of McCormick's practice in Virginia's horse country, where many owners and trainers insist on it. "My clients have come to expect expertise from me on that — mostly because the horses have done well," he said. "At its best, it's effective 80 per cent of the time."

Acupuncture started out as a small part of Ms. Snader's practice, but "the demand became so great that I had to give up my traditional practice because I did not have time to do it."

While McCormick and Ms. Snader deal primarily with horses, acupuncture can be used on any animal. "The Chinese use it on chickens, pigs, camels, water buffaloes," said McCormick. "You could use it on snakes for that matter."

Kitty Beveridge, who trains show horses at her farm near Middleburg, swears by the technique. As McCormick applied needles to a horse, she described the "dramatic turnaround" of a 3-year-old thoroughbred treated for pain in its back and legs.

"He became much more relaxed through work and

Happy birthday



Amina Abdulshakoor turned 9 on January 19



Ali Abdulshakoor turned 8 on January 18



Shalini James turned one on January 18



Puneet K. Jain turns 8 today, January 23



Shannon D'souza turns one today, January 23



Alina Fernandes turns ten today, January 23



Hersh Mantri turns 7 today, January 23



Shan Pothan turns 5 today, January 23



Sheetal Swamy today January 23



Bhamini Daya turned 6 on January 21



Lincy Ganga turns 9 on January 24



Manisha Bhatia turned 6 on January 21



Samantha Menezes turned one January 15



Mohammed Mishnad turns 7 on January 24

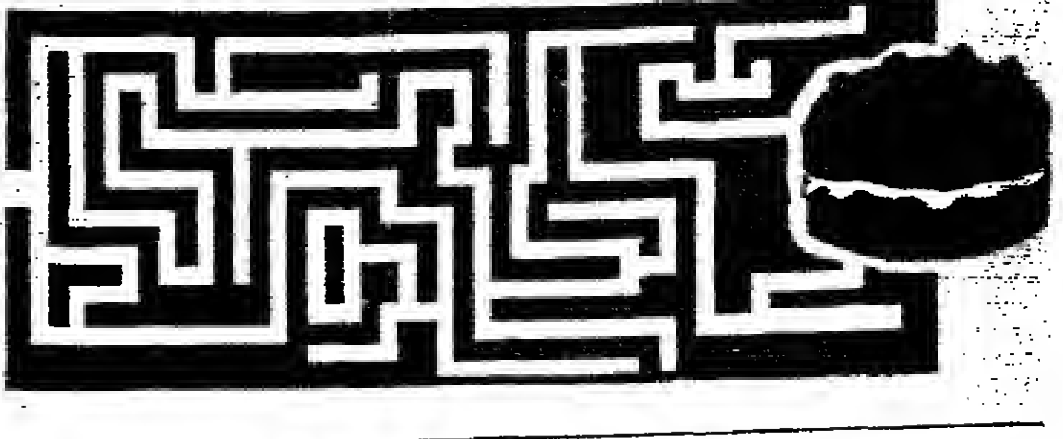
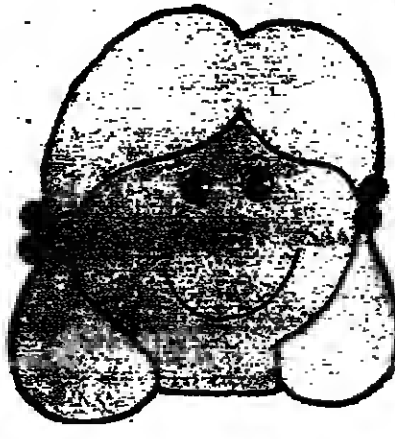


Seydi Baasam turns one on January 24



Nuzhat Noor turns 11 on January 24

Find a way through each maze



Hey Kiddos 'Out' for some fun... sit and write to your favourite Film Star...

SPECIAL STAR POST

SHATRUGHAN SINHA
49 Nutan Laxmi Society
9th Road, Juhu Scheme
Bombay-49

SHASHI KAPOOR
112 Atlas Apartments
Harkness Road
Bombay-6

SHARANA AZMI
25 Janki Kuttir
Juhu Church Road,
Juhu
Bombay-49

SHAKTI KAPOOR
Palm Beach, 7th Floor
Gandhigram Road
Juhu
Bombay-49

SIMI GAREWAL
Pavlova, 6th Floor
Little Gibbs Road
Malabar Hill
Bombay-6

SUNIL / SANJAY DUTT
58 Pali Hill
Bandra
Bombay-50

SANJAY KHAN
11 Silver Beach
Juhu
Bombay-49

TANUJA
Usha Kiran
Altamount Road
Bombay-26

TINA MUNIM
Abhishek
Bungalow No. 1,
Versova,
Bombay-61

VINOD MEHRA
15 Union Park
Khar
Bombay-52

VIAJENDRA
34 Beach Queen
Juhu Koliwada
Bombay-49

WAHEEDA REHMAN
Galaxy Apartments
111, B.J. Road
Bandra
Bombay-50

ZARINA WAHAB / ADITYA PANCHOLI
401 Sea King
Band Stand
Bandra
Bombay-50

ZEENAT AMAN
Neelam Apts
Mt. Mary Road
Bandra
Bombay-50



Watch out for Star Post next week....

Eugene Roche Mohindia

Variety

Hollywood: A novel of America in 1920's

Hollywood, By Gore Vidal
GORE VIDAL brings his panoramic fictionalised vision of American history, already sketched in such best-sellers as "Burr" and "Lincoln," into the 20th century with "Hollywood", which he situates with the subtitle: "A Novel of America in the 1920's."

But don't let the title fool you. "Hollywood" is a biocast novel, with the Washington of Wilson and Harding administrations playing as central a role as the Hollywood of D.W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.

What has always been most fascinating and pleasurable about Vidal's historical fiction — and what sets him several cuts above most practitioners of the craft — is the unconventional, off-beat perception he brings to historical research. That perception is always an angle neither novelist nor historian would generally exploit, but one that Vidal presses to fresh understandings of history we thought we knew.

In this case it is the linking of the fledgling "photo-play" industry in Hollywood to the gradual unfolding of the new medium was a powerful tool to alter citizens' beliefs about themselves and the world.

Vidal recounts his history through a cast of both historical and fictional characters.

Most central among the latter is Caroline Sanford, co-publisher of the Washington Tribune and a descendant of Aaron Burr. On the eve of the US entry into

World War I, Caroline travels to Hollywood, first to convince the industry to make propaganda films, then staying to produce and act in pictures. She retains her links with the powerful in Washington even as she grows

It is hard to read "Hollywood" without placing it against the backdrop of the Reagan administration, which also fulfilled the link of Washington and Hollywood.

which its plot is based are very much characteristic of three decades later. In "Black Girl, White Girl," Henry Tibbitt of Scotland Yard's CID and wife Emily work in tandem and unorthodox

Bestsellers List

Fiction
1. Tales from Margaritaville — Jimmy Buffett (No. 1 last week — 2,480 copies ordered)
2. The Bad Place — Dean Koontz (2,410)
3. Harmful Intent — Robin Cook (2,238)
4. The Great Waldo Search — Martin Handford (2 — 1,694)
5. Clear and Present Danger — Tom Clancy (3 — 1,355)
6. Daddy — Danielle Steel (9 — 1,344)
7. Vineland — Thomas Pynchon (7 — 1,230)
8. Ruling Passion — Judith Michael (1,143)
9. Where's Waldo? — Martin Handford (5 — 1,079)
10. Find Waldo Now — Martin Handford (6 — 1,053)

Non-fiction
1. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten — Robert Fulghum (2 — 3,049)
2. The Templing of America — Robert Bork (3 — 2,509)
3. It Was on Fire When I Lay Down On It — Robert Fulghum (4 — 2,312)
4. Cuckoo's Eggs — Clifford Stoll (7 — 1,850)

5. Wealth Without Risk — Charles Givens (1,480)
6. Liar's Poker — Michael Lewis (5 — 1,472)
7. Megareads 2000 — John Naisbitt (1,133)
8. The Way Things Work — David Macaulay (1 — 1,011)
9. The New York Public Library Desk Reference (9 — 987)
10. Barbarians at the Gate — Bryan Burrough and John Helyar (927)

Mass paperbacks
1. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten — Robert Fulghum (1 — 6,501)
2. Born on the Fourth of July — Ron Kovic (3,697)
3. Star Trek: The Next Generation No. 10: A Rock and A Hard Place — Peter David (3,110)
4. The New Kids on the Block — Grace Catalano (8 — 3,078)
5. Too Deep For Tears — Kathryn Lynn Davis (2,862)
6. Desperado Drug Wars — Elaine Shannon (2,579)
7. A Thief of Time — Tony Hillerman (5 — 2,424)
8. The Drawing of the Three —

Stephen King (3 — 2,294)
9. Mutation — Robin Cook (2,070)
10. Gunslinger — Stephen King (2,040)

Trade paperbacks
1. Fifty Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth — Earthworks Projects (6 — 3,308)
2. You Can't Afford The Luxury of a Negative Thought — Peter McWilliams (2 — 6,849)
3. The Prehistory of the Far Side, 10th Anniversary Edition — Gary Larson (3 — 4,526)
4. Bradshaw on The Family — John Bradshaw (4 — 4,451)
5. Healing the Shame That Binds — John Bradshaw (5 — 3,668)
6. Love You Forever — Robert Munsch (8 — 2,956)
7. Dungeons and Dragons: Pool of Radiance — James Ward (2,624)
8. Codependent No More — Melody Beattie (2,586)
9. The World Almanac and Book of Facts (1,834)
10. Yukon Hoo — Bill Watterson (1,667)

Rankings based on orders to Ingram Book Co. from more than 7,000 bookstores nationwide.

Black Girl, White Girl, by Patricia Moyes

The characters in Patricia Moyes' 18th Inspector Tibbitt mystery have some of the flavour of 1959, when the first one was published, but the problems oo

fashion with upper-crusty friends to rid a Caribbean island, a former British colony, of the menace that comes with tolerating drug dealers. "White girl" is the local slang for cocaine and residents of Tampica are dark-

skinned.

In some ways Moyes may be a bit old-fashioned, but she still manages to provide nifty plot twists on the way to an epilogue that reveals a bit about how people really do behave in some of Britain's former colonies.

Searching for Robert Johnson, by Peter Guralnick

Robertson Johnson was considered the king of the Delta Blues singers before his untimely death in 1938. He was only 27, and because his life was so short and his talent so amazing for his time, he became the kind of career from which legends are made.

Peter Guralnick tries to separate fact from fiction in this brief work without shattering the mystery. Legend has it that one night in Mississippi, Johnson sat at a crossroads, made a bargain with the devil and soon began playing the guitar like nobody had heard before.

His strong playing and personality turned Johnson into an overnight sensation who had a strong impact on the Blues tradition, was loved by a succession of women until he was murdered by a jealous husband.

This extended essay is fascinating even though it seems far too short. The problem is, when it comes to Johnson's life, there aren't many facts to go around about the man whose music inspired Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Eric Clapton and the Rolling Stones.

The book is more an appreciation than a biography.



Castle representing Asia

Sandcastles that tower into the air

SAND to most people means something to play in, lie on or dig up. But to Todd Vander Pluym it is material to be fashioned into art as he builds giant-sized models of world famous architecture.

Vander Pluym, founder of Sand Sculpture International, is working on his biggest project — coovering 160 tons of sand into historical temples, castles and statues at the Santa Anita Fashion Park, a shopping mall in Arcadia, California.

The year-long promotion consists of four world "tours" which, according to the mall and provide cultural and educational activities to shoppers and their children.

First stop in the tour was Asia, with the world's tallest indoor sculpture on display. The model of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, standing 20ft 4ins, towered above the Taj Mahal, Great Wall of China,

Peking's Temple of Heaven and the Himeji Temple of Japan. The sculpture with a 32ft by 48ft base, hypnotised and emotionally troubled shoppers.

"People are coming by with cameras and video cameras," Vander Pluym said. "They're turning the chairs at tables in the mall's centre court to face the sculpture. One Asian lady had tears in her eyes. She said it reminded her of her homeland."

The tour has since moved on. At the end of October sledge hammers came down on the Asian architectural wonders and Vander and his staff of 12 began

to create European landmarks. The sand which formed the Taj Mahal was once again watered, hand-tamped, and compressed into forms with wooden boards, which wheo removed revealed figures of London's Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

Other sculptures depict Venice's Rialto Bridge, Heidelberg Castle, on which the Disneyland castle is modelled, and, standing tall in the centre court, King Ludwig's castle in Bavaria, which was the inspiration for Sleeping Beauty's castle in the Walt Disney film.

Miracle that turned crippled lady into an active woman



Shirley takes a break

TRACK-SUITED Shirley Howlett jogged home happily after a brisk mile-long run. Yet only two weeks before, she could barely shuffle a few painful steps without help.

Now she is looking forward to an action-packed future... hill-walking, cycling and just dancing with joy.

Shirley, a 42-year-old mother of four, told me: "A month ago I was virtually crippled by a bone disease. Then a miracle happened, a miracle which means I am starting a new life. I can walk and run without limping, and I can still hardly credit that it has happened."

Then Shirley, who has fought and beaten both the osteomyelitis that has cast a shadow over her life, and heroin addiction, told me how she was transformed

from a near cripple to a bouncing, vital woman.

She said: "There's no doubt about it, I was touched by the Lord. And I hope my story will be an inspiration to other people who are suffering as I did."

"It all happened after I'd had my twelfth operation, which left my right leg an inch and a half shorter than the other one. I had to wear a built up shoe, and because of the pain, I couldn't walk further than a few yards without support."

"Even so, I was determined to carry on with my work at three local schools as a dinner lady and doing what I love most — coaching children in sport. My husband Brian bought a car specially so I could still get there. Nothing could keep me away from those kids."

Then Shirley, from Burgess Hill, Sussex, made a decision that, she claims, changed her life.

Settling back into her chair in her cosy, cluttered front room, she said: "I went out of interest to a church service led by an American evangelist called Eric Cowley. I knew that he had a reputation for healing but I wasn't expecting him to do anything for me."

"I was joining in prayer for a woman who had cancer when Eric turned to me and asked what my problem was. I didn't even have the chance to tell him the full story before he started to pray. Suddenly, I got this tremendous quivering and trembling in my leg. It was an amazing feeling, very hard to describe."

"When I eventually managed to sit

down, Eric told me to take off my boot and walk. It may sound mad, but as I walked up and down that hall I could actually feel my leg grow. There's no other word for it. The further I went, the more I could feel the heel of the withered leg coming down to touch the floor."

"In the end I could put my right foot flat on the ground. Something I'd not been able to do for years. I can tell you, I was ecstatic. My knees, ankles, everything were level again. There was no point in putting my boot back on because I just didn't need it."

Shirley says that she strode home barefoot from the service, matching Brian, 47, pace for pace.

She told me: "At first I was so wrapped up in the miracle that I didn't notice that

the pain was gone. Theo I had this enormous sense of freedom. I began to think of all the things that were no longer denied to me, like walking over hills and riding my bike again."

Back home, Shirley's daughters Abigail, 16, Sara, 15, and twins Rachel and Rebecca aged nine, pray every day with dad Brian, a laboratory technician, to give thanks for her amazing transformation. But Shirley knows that the battle isn't over yet.

Shirley said quietly: "A lot depends on my attitude now. I have to keep working on the leg, and most important, I have to keep my faith."

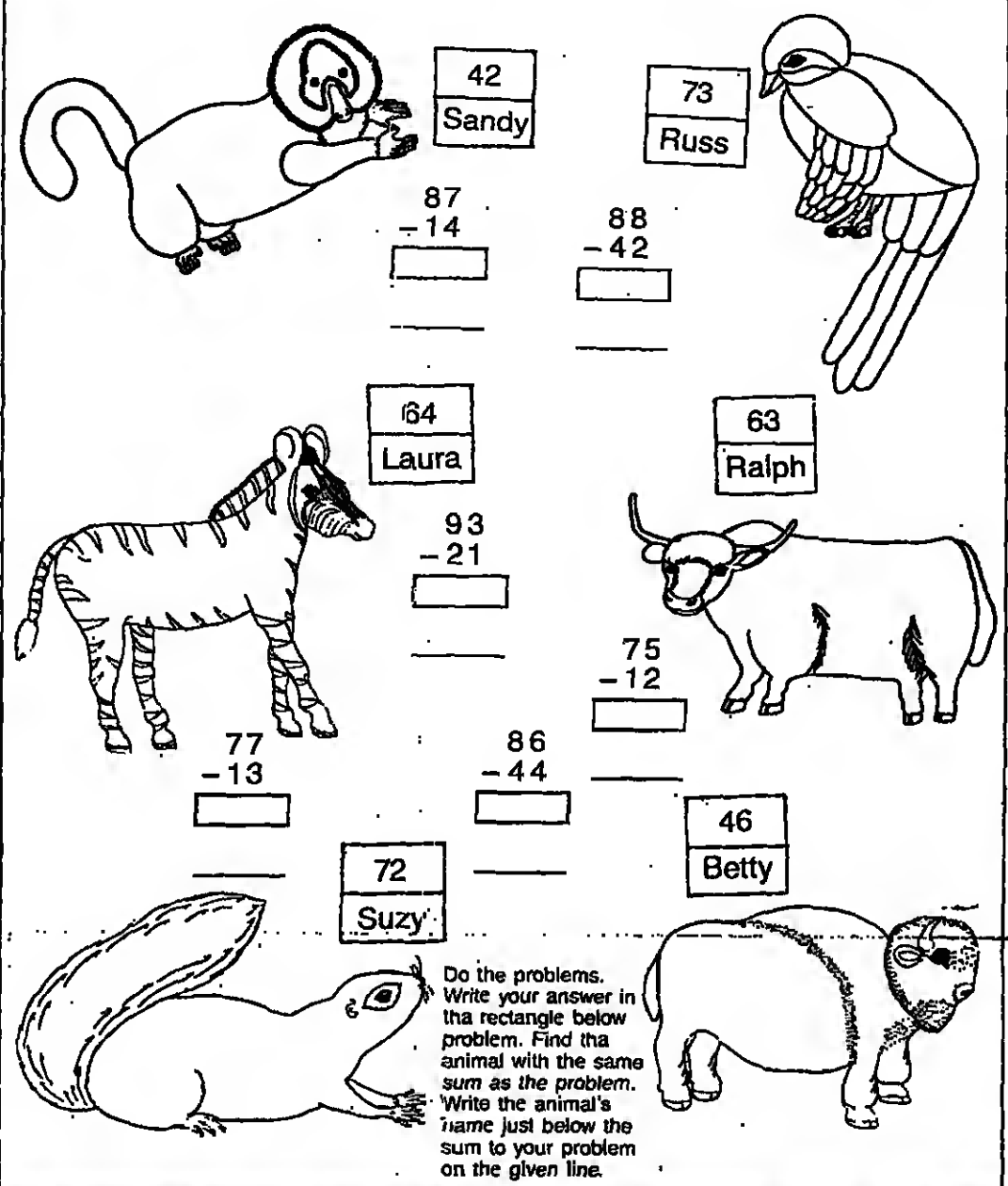
She went to her doctor, who she says, put her miraculous recovery down to "natural causes."

Shopping spree

Mrs Panty is going shopping, but the names of the things on her shopping list have got muddled up. Unjumble the letters to find out what she needs to buy. You can find each item in the picture.



Animal Names



Dear Junior readers,

A few days ago, I was walking in one of the Kuwaiti vegetable markets when I saw a young girl with her mother. The child was peeling a tangerine and throwing the peels on the floor. To my dismay, before I could say "light", a poor old lady slipped on the peeling falling right on her face. Thank God she was not badly hurt.

Throwing rubbish on the ground is a common phenomenon in the streets of Kuwait, especially among young children. The parents of these children should remind them that this sort of behaviour is both dangerous and unhealthy. Many people have badly hurt themselves from peels on the floor. Flies, cockroaches and rats find peels delicious and spread and multiply carrying fatal diseases.

All in all littering is disgusting and clearly reflects a child's personality at home. Basically he/she is a lazy litter-bug! So next time if the thought of throwing something on the ground comes to mind, think about the harm you may bring to others. I'm sure you'll disperse your belongings in the nearest rubbish bin.

Manol

The jumble sale

By Julie Hodgson

Coats and hats and old cricket bats,
Piled up against the wall,
old rickety desks with faded school books,
and grandmothers string of fake pearls.

Raggy dolls without any eyes,
teddys without any ears,
old satin slippers from dancers or theatre,
War medals, trumpets and spears.

I love to rummage at big jumble sales,
picking up old coats, and small boats with sails,
watching a lady buy a mask with a dent,
and a moth eaten peacock, boy the money she spent.

Musty old blankets and old quilts with patches,
tents tied with blue string, and faded rain splashes,
tightropes and carousels, toys for a boy,
train sets and goliwogs, to play with oh joy.

My sisters and I loved to go with our mum,
to sift through the junk was just oodles of fun,
It's better than a circus, or a walk in the park,
a jumble sale is just great for a lark.



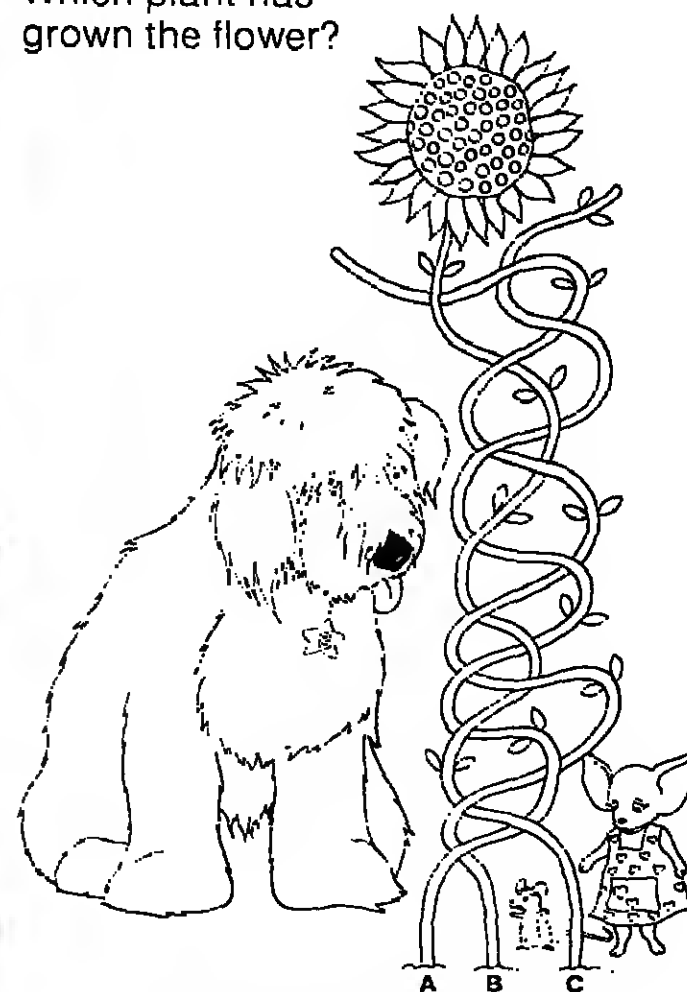
Word search

FIELD OF CLOVER

BEES	HONEY
COVER	LEAVES
CROP	LUCK
CULTIVATE	PASTURES
DUTCH	PETALS
FARM	PLANT
FIELD	RED CLOVER
FLOWER	SEED
FOUR-LEAF	WEED
FRAGRANT	WHITE
GROUND	WILD
HERB	YELLOW

B N N H B A D S E V A E L
T E R R Y E L L O W B U U
Y Y E N O H N N B A C F S
H H V S E T I H W K N I E
R R O L N B C F L O W E R
F E C U L T I V A T E L U
A V V R U B N N L R R D T
E O L D O N B V A A M M S
L L N N T P D D P N B B A
R C C U D E E S L A T E P
U D B O N E B B A I N N L
O E E R W B V G N W W H G
F R A G R A N T T G A A Z

Which plant has grown the flower?



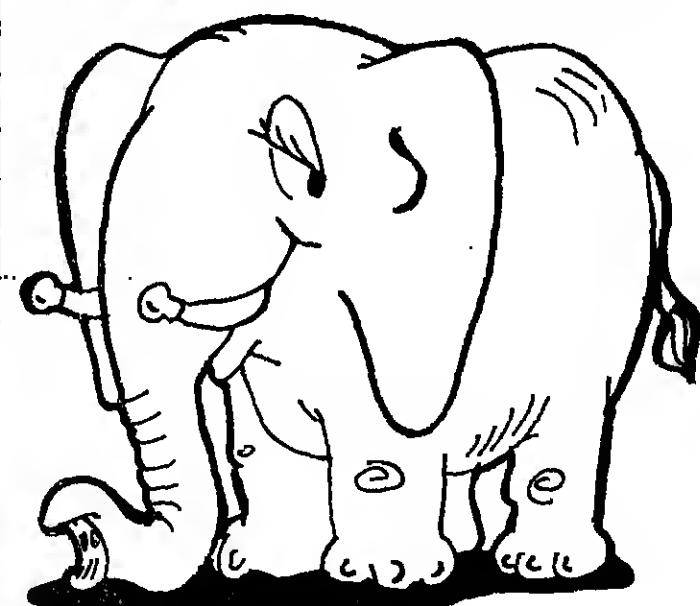
First and last

In the Philippines, people can vote in elections at the age of only 15.

The smallest baby to have survived was born in England on 5th June 1938, weighing only 283g (10 oz). The heaviest birth on record is that of a 10.7 kg (23 3/4lb) baby born in the USA in 1879.

'Good King Wenceslas' was not a king at all, but a prince of Bohemia who lived during the 10th century.

At the zoo



- Each elephant eats 5 bags of peanuts each day. There are 7 elephants and 35 peanuts in each bag. How many peanuts do the elephants eat each day?
- The largest seal eats 58 large fish. The smallest seal eats 19 fish. How many more fish does the largest seal eat?
- In the monkey cage, there are 12 monkeys. Each monkey has 1 orange, 2 apples and 4 bananas. How many pieces of fruit is that?
- It costs 15 cent to buy a bag of peanuts for the elephants. Marvin bought 7 bags. How much did he pay?
- There are 27 baby animals in the zoo nursery. There are 7 times that many animals in the rest of the zoo. How many animals are there in the rest of the zoo?
- The zoo keeper washes the seals' pool from 8:15 to 8:45 each morning. How many minutes does it take him to wash it?

Birthday coupon

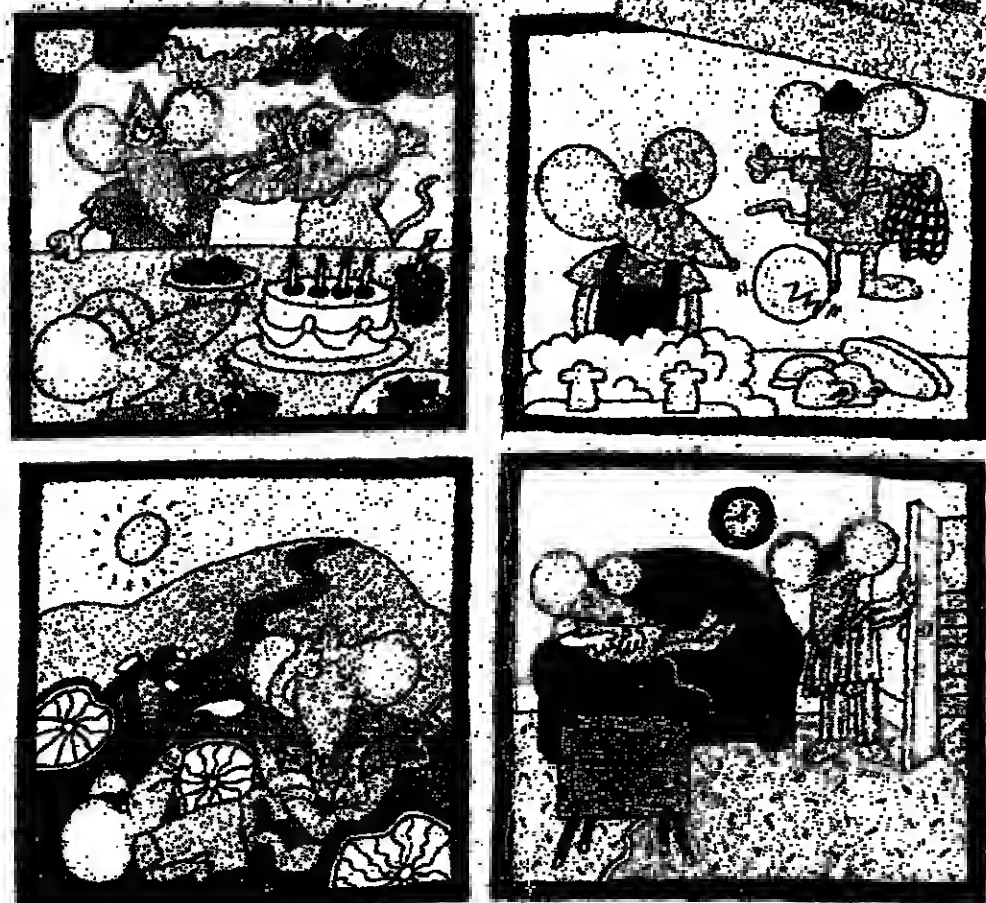
Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

Look at these pictures



Can you tell from their faces how Mix and Max are feeling?
Can you see why they feel like this?

Funny face game

Ask a friend or a grown-up to make a face that looks happy, sad, excited, cross or tired. How good are the faces? Can someone guess how you feel when you make a face?

Action words

An action word may tell what one person, animal, or thing does.

Add -s to the action word.

Rico takes the bus.

A. Complete the sentences.

ride rides

1. Sue _____ the bus to school.

look looks

2. Kim _____ out the window.

B. Use an action word in a sentence about a bus.

C. Can a friend find your action word?

BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake



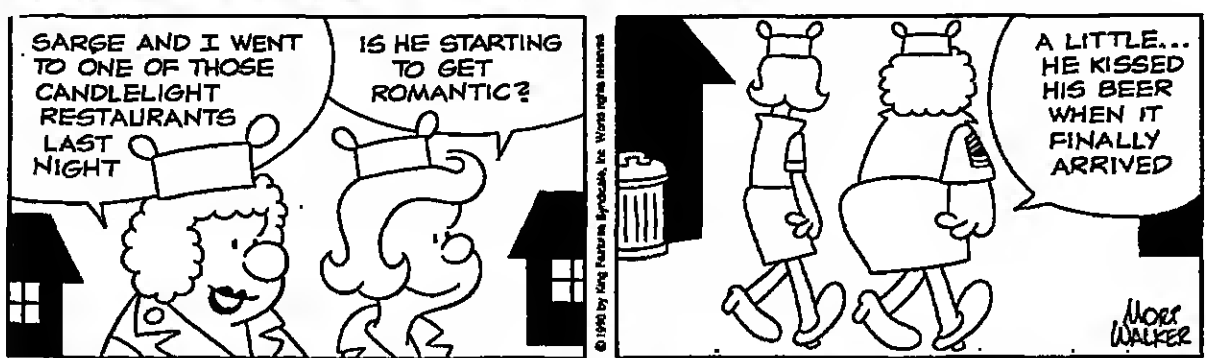
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dik Browne



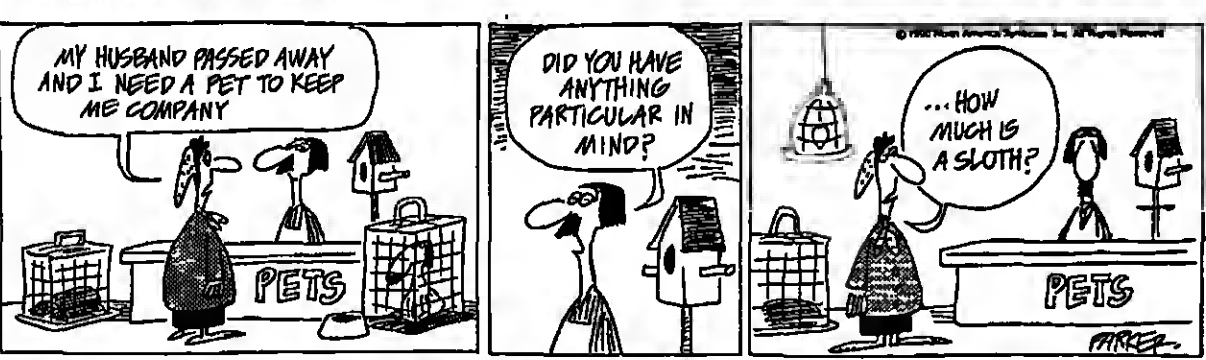
ACOTIA PRUNE By Dik Browne



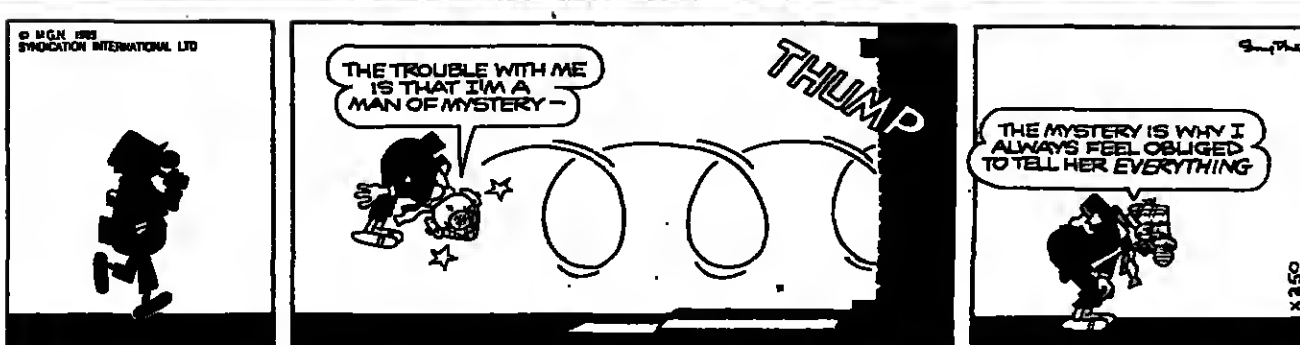
BETTY DAILEY By Mark Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brian Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY DUFF



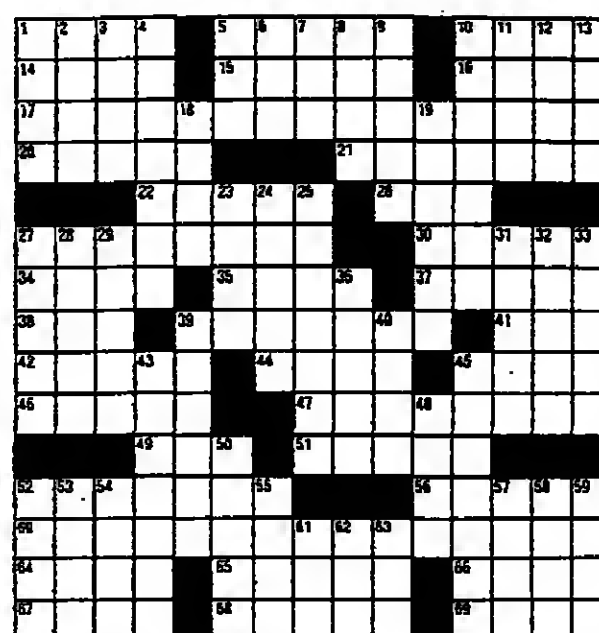
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HE MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Of a time
5 Collars and jackets
10 Fine horse
14 Eagle or wolf
15 Dig discovery
16 Musical about Chanel
17 Movie fare
20 Bitter blast
21 Rowed
22 Kan Maynard
26 Upsilon
27 Fill with folks
30 Circle or sanctum
34 "There'll be a time..."
35 Aide's hit
37 Cliché
38 Shoot the breeze
39 Swamp gas
41 VI x CLXVII
42 Erie or Huron
44 Hall, in Havana
45 Night light
46 More balanced
47 Heat 'em and eat 'em
49 Clucker
51 Ruhr city
52 Gouda end
56 Marsh growth
60 Proposes
64 "Thanks —"
65 Teammate of Snider and Furillo
66 Sci-fi film: 1982
67 Class mtg.
68 Before hand or foot
69 Heating vessel

DOWN

- 1 Napoleon retreat?
2 Overwhelm
3 Chip in
4 Releases
5 Misspell
6 Golf gadget
7 Venerable
8 Finches
9 Welter or Wntfield
10 Story
11 Chess piece
12 Back forty unit
13 Connerly role
14 Latin wrap-up
15 Laud
23 Doodle
24 Les — Unis
25 Alter form
27 Leer and Hamlet
28 Tara family
29 Drop by
31 Christianing figure
32 "Ash Wednesday"

author

- 33 Dobbin
36 Heavenly headwear
39 Least
40 Kindergarten breaks
43 Mandates
45 Fabray
48 Tracy's
50 Indian leader
52 IRS employees
53 — in one
54 Epic poems
55 Caught in the act
57 Gossip
58 Thug
59 Sicilian spa
61 Which was to be demonstrated:
Lat. abbr.
62 Apply
63 Always, to Keats

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALPS RACK PLATA
COOT ERIA ROGER
ENTR KETTLEORUM
OEBILITY TOTOTS
OVINE CRT
FRIEND CRACKPOT
LIL GLARE TRADE
IDES EPODIE ANIS
EGRET SOONG HUT
RESTRRAIN DREAMY
LVS MOIRIN
PIRADOE BARBADOES
SPIDERWEBS SLOW
ASTION IDEE EENA
TOKIST GELD DRIAB

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OIMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 106 ♠ K1063 ♠ QJ92 ♠ Q92
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—When you have a ruffing value and a four-card major, it is usually better to look for a 4-4 fit in that suit than to play in no trump—after all, opener also might have a doubleron. So bid two clubs to investigate.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 106 ♠ K1063 ♠ QJ92 ♠ Q92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Whether partner has or has not yet denied a heart suit (with both majors some pairs agree to show spades first, other hearts), all you can do for the moment is return to two no trump. That shows a balanced hand of 8-9 points.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 106 ♠ K1063 ♠ QJ92 ♠ Q92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—You have too much to pass, but not enough to jump to game in hearts. Raise to three hearts. That invites partner to go to four hearts if he has a maximum one no trump opening bid.

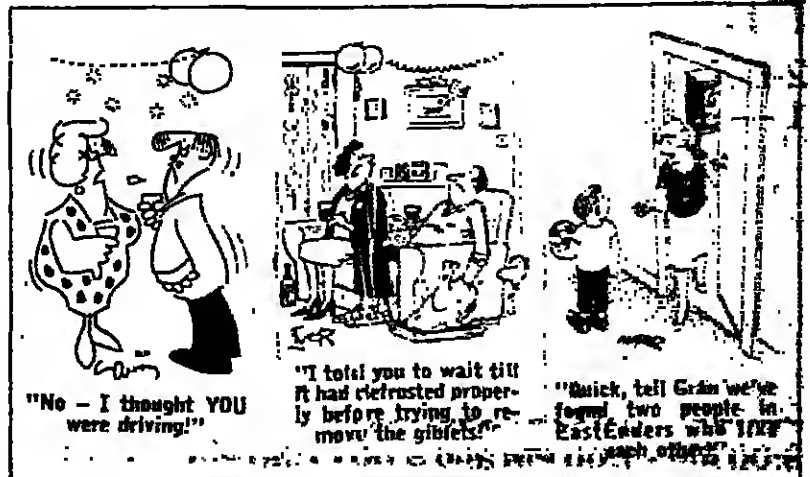
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 106 ♠ K1063 ♠ QJ92 ♠ Q92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—We can understand your desire to remind your six-card major suit, but consider for a moment. Partner has shown nine or 10 cards in the minors, and he rates to have a couple of hearts at least. Therefore, he is almost surely short in spades. The sensible bid is a preference to two diamonds.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A ♠ KQJ1085 ♠ K5 ♠ J832
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?

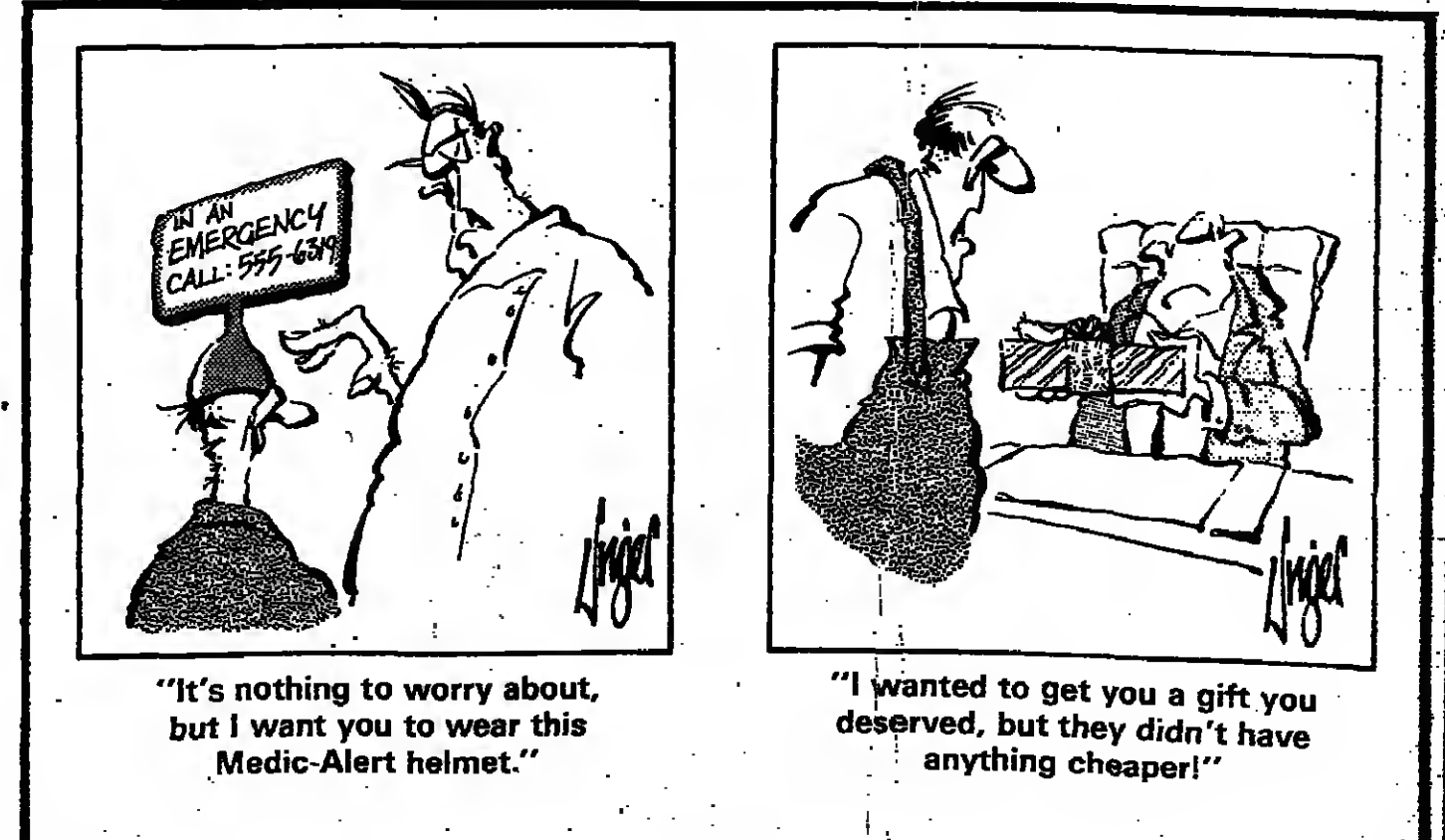
A.—Because of your spade shortage, you can't even be sure this is your hand. Since chances of slam opposite a passed hand are virtually nil, we would opt to make life as difficult as possible for the opponents by opening four hearts.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 72 ♠ KQ109542 ♠ 954 ♠ 6
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—You are interested in playing four hearts, and nothing else, so don't waste any time—bid it. Or, if you are playing transfer bids, transfer into hearts and then raise to game.



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>You should not try to do too many things all at once. Nor should you try to work more quickly than you know how. Make sure you do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Be reliable.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>You will be able to see the light but you must show a lot of determination if you want to achieve your aims. And do not try to leave until later what you know should be done now. Avoid eating too many snacks. Be more moderate.</p>	<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p> <p>You will have a good opportunity but if you do not act quickly you will miss it. However, you should avoid acting on impulse. You should try to have a little more faith in yourself. Be polite.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19</p> <p>You will be able to overcome a certain amount of diffidence but only if you show some determination. You will tend to allow your attention to wander and should try to exercise more self-control. Do not do the first thing that comes to your head. Be less selfish.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>This is going to be a good day for you but only if you do not take too many things for granted. Watch out for mistakes and correct them as you go along. Pay just a little more attention to your state of health. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug. 21</p> <p>A good idea of yours will help you to answer the challenge of the occasion. You should leave a little more room for your affections. An offer or proposal should be considered more objectively. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 22</p> <p>You will be able to find the solution to one of your more pressing problems. You should not allow work to encroach upon your private life. There is room for just a little more optimism. Be respectful.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 19</p> <p>You should not allow some secondary matter to take up too much of your attention. Your lucky numbers are 5 and 37. You should try to have just a little more faith in yourself. You will have what seems to you like a good idea, but others will not agree. Be respectful.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>You will be able to settle an argument only if you are prepared to make one or two concessions. Remember that whilst you should not rely too much on others you cannot do without them either. Do not eat more than you need to maintain your weight. Be generous.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug. 22 - Sept. 22</p> <p>You will tend to have a rather confusing and tiring day. Do all you can not to get things out of order. Also do not attempt to do too many things all at once. Be shrewd.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 22</p> <p>You will be able to understand that has been a mystery to you. You should try to exercise just a little more self-control. Do not regret what might have been, too late for that now. Be to the point.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20</p> <p>You will be able to have a good laugh at yourself. The prospects are better than they seem so there is no reason for pessimism. An offer or proposal deserves to be taken more seriously than appears at first sight. Be less aggressive.</p>



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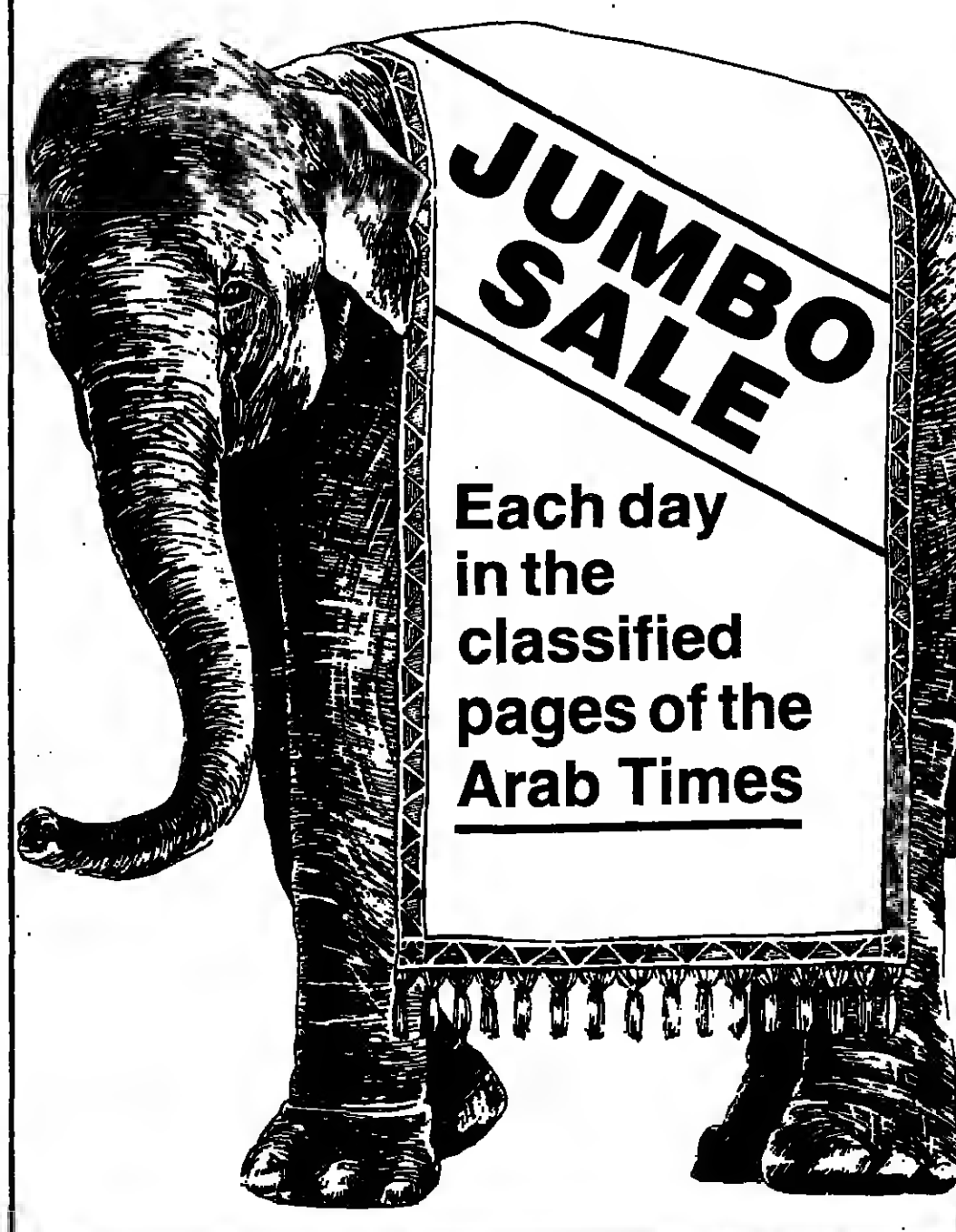
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(AT4-DR-TM-3)



Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Canadian expelled from Commonwealth Games

Africans drop boycott threat

AUCKLAND, Jan. 22, (Reuters). African countries will not take any action against English competitors at the Auckland Commonwealth Games or boycott the event because of the rebel England cricket tour of South Africa, officials decided today.

But they criticised British sports authorities for not doing more to protest against the current tour and are expected to raise the issue at the general assembly of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) tomorrow.

Tommy Sithole of Zimbabwe, spokesman for the 11 African

nations which held a strategy meeting today, said: "England has only complied with the letter and not with the spirit of the code of conduct (governing Commonwealth sporting contacts with South Africa)."

"It's attitude is tantamount to a tacit encouragement for such tours," Sithole added and called on the British Olympic association "to unequivocally and loudly condemn the tour."

But the 11 nations — Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Botswana, Uganda, Mauritius and Gambia — gave

their unanimous backing to the Auckland Games which open on Wednesday.

"We want to make it absolutely clear that African countries have not considered boycotting the Games despite clear provocation by the organisers of the tour and the few rebel cricketers."

"Africa will do all in its power to ensure the success of the Auckland Games," Sithole said, adding that the question of seeking England's expulsion from the Games had not arisen.

The statement ended several days of rumour and speculation

in Auckland that the Africans might be considering a repeat of their 1986 boycott of the Edinburgh Games.

The African countries are still seeking some means of curbing future rebel tours of South Africa by Commonwealth teams, but Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), said: "The code of conduct is so vague that we do not know what to do."

CGF chairman Peter Healy described the African statement as "a well considered, statesman-like announcement," and said it would be brought to the attention of the general assembly.

"But he added that the code of conduct could not be altered without previous written notice and no such notice had been received."

A Canadian athlete was expelled from the games today.

Sprinter Jillian Richardson, silver medalist in the women's 400 metres four years ago, was thrown out of the Games after attempting to move into the Nigerian quarters in the Games village.

Canadian officials said Richardson had changed her accommodation after they had refused her demand for a single room.

"It feels like I've been kicked in the stomach," Richardson said. "I'm still stunned."

By today, 51 nations had checked into the games village with a further three scheduled to arrive tomorrow, making the games the largest ever. The previous highest attendance was 47 at the 1982 Brisbane Games.

Two unnamed Australian male athletes escaped Richardson's fate after team officials

confirmed they had streaked naked through the games village on Sunday night and sexually harassed woman team mate Michelle Baumgartner.

Officials said the pair had been warned that any further misbehaviour would result in instant expulsion.

Their antics were publicly criticised by Australia's defending marathon champions Rob de Castella and Lisa Martin.

"These guys, supposedly elite athletes, have been doing the same sort of thing for 10 years," De Castella said.

"It's time it ended. These sort of actions should no longer be tolerated."

Martin endorsed De Castella's remarks. "I think what happened was shocking," Martin said. "To see a nice girl like that in tears."

"We were in the dining room and she came in crying her eyes out. Talk about team morale. These were experienced team members, former medal winners."

Australia's track and field team manager Rick Parnell was particularly angry at the incident.

"I would hope that they (the offenders) now know better. If they don't know better, they shouldn't be in the Commonwealth Games," Baumgartner said she had never been spoken to in her life as she had been in yesterday's incident.

"I have been wolf-whistled and things like that, but none has ever spoken to me as those blokes did," said the 26-year-old part-time model from Melbourne.

"You just don't expect that from team members. I was in tears. It was very upsetting."



Canada's top gymnast Curtis Hibbert practices the vault in preparation for the Games. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lemieux scores four in NHL All-Star game

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 22, (Reuters). Mario Lemieux scored four goals, three of them in the first period, as the Wales Conference All-Stars beat the Campbell Conference Stars 12-7 yesterday in the highest scoring NHL All-Star game ever.

A sellout crowd of 16,236 watched Lemieux, the hometown Pittsburgh Penguins centre, win Most Valuable Player honours.

Lemieux opened the scoring just 21 seconds after the game began by beating Calgary goalkeeper Mike Vernon with a wraparound.

His second goal of the period came at 13 minutes and his third at 17:37 when he slid the puck through Vernon's legs on a two-on-one rush with teammate Paul Coffey.

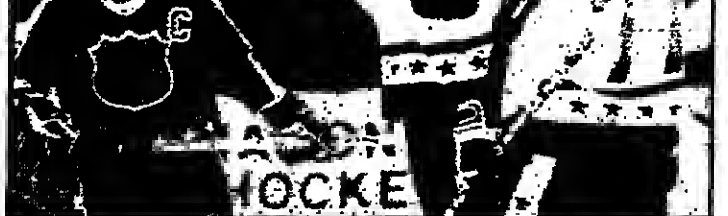
The Wales Conference led 7-2 at the end of the first period, and 9-4 at the end of the second. Each team scored three goals in the third period for the final 12-7 count.

Pierre Turgeon of the Buffalo Sabres scored two goals for the Wales Conference as did Kirk Muller of the New Jersey Devils. Luc Robitaille had two third-period goals for the Campbell Conference.

The Wales Conference now leads the All-Star series against the Campbell Conference 11-3.

The National Hockey League Players Association yesterday unanimously ratified the appointment of lawyer Bob Goodenow as the deputy executive director of the association and their apparent to Alan Eagleson.

Eagleson, the present executive director, has said he would step down after 20 years as the players association head by the end of 1991 or until a new collective bargaining agreement was finalised with the players.



Lemieux (centre) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring his first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Eagles, KU lead

THE spring 1990 KSL action resumed with two games on January 12 and three more on January 19. Last week's action featured one of the year's most exciting games, as the Eagles, squeaked past Ray and Associates, 23-20. KU defeated the Falcons, while the UAS-Bazookas game was postponed.

This week KSL took All-Japan, 19-3, in the early game. The Eagles defeated the scrappy Falcons, 20-7, and KU stopped UAS, 12-1. The Eagles and KU lead the standings with 20 records.

Kay led the Bazookas only 9-3 after four innings, but added ten more in the fifth to invoke the mercy rule. Each of the two Kays started scored at least once. Kay's 23-hit attack was led by Fritz Cameron (4), Lee Ehret (5), Steve Diemer (4), Stanley d'Souza (3), Kevin Stevenson (2), and pitcher Herb Brog (4). Cameron, Ehret and Diemer all had homers, Diemer's a grand slam.

In the Eagles-Falcons contest, pitcher Al Rodier won his second game with an eight-hitter, while his teammates racked up 20 hits. The Eagles jumped out to an 8-2 first inning lead and made it 16-7 after five.

Leading hitters were Dan Proctor (2), Jeff Jugar (2), Alan Burris (2), Skip Stomberg (3), James Alderman (2), and Hal Leighton (3). Big hits of the game were Alderman's bases loaded double and Nate Howell's two-run single in the first, Proctor's two-run double and Jugar's two-run homer in the fifth, and Stomberg's triple in the second and bases-loaded single in the seventh.

Reached

Leading with hits for the Falcons were Nigel Nightingale and Doug Bennett with two each. FHWA scored two in the first when Nightingale reached safely on an error. Bennett scored on a throw out to Jerry Cloud and Bob Mitchell delivered RBI singles. In the third, with one out, Nightingale singled, Bennett was safe on an error, and with two out coach and pitcher Monte Symons brought in two with a single up the gap in left centre.

The other three Falcons runs came in the fifth. With two out, Roger Marcos walked, Nightingale singled, Bennett tripled to the left field fence, and Lubin Quinones was safe on an error.

The final game, KU jumped into a 4-0 lead in the first and led 13-0 after 5 1/2 innings, as pitcher Mike Anderson held UAS to six singles. Leading KU with hits were Dave Checkie (4), Ed Smith (3), Karl Anderson (3), and Jim Thomas (3).

KU's four in the first came when one out, Checkie singled, Smith walked, Karl Anderson doubled home one, Thomas singled home two, and with two out, Mike Anderson was safe on an error and Vic Hancock singled. KU scored two in the fourth when, with one out, Checkie and Smith doubled and Karl Anderson singled. Five more came in the sixth as Jassim Yacoub doubled, Jassim Yacoub and Checkie singled, Smith and Karl Anderson doubled, and Thomas singled before anyone was out.

UAS left nine men on base in the first five innings, getting only three singles (Tim Henderson, Dave Lamb and pitcher John Dennis) and one walk. But benefiting from the KU errors, The teachers broke through in the sixth with a run, one-out singles from Jerry Cook and Dave Rojcek and two-out RBI single from Richard Downes. Rojcek was excellent at shortstop, making many plays and turning a double play in the fourth inning with Ken Parker and Cook.

49ers find Broncos difficult to beat

SANTA CLARA, California, Jan. 22, (AP). Snowballs, high winds and John Elway's passes.

These are a few of the San Francisco 49ers' least favourite things — at least when it comes to their unpleasant history with the Denver Broncos.

The 49ers took an 0-4 record against Denver, dating to the start of the Bill Walsh era, with them when they flew to New Orleans yesterday for the Super Bowl. The Broncos are the only club that the team of the 1980s, and Walsh, couldn't beat.

"There's been a certain frustration about the fact we haven't beaten them in a regular game," said coach George Seifert, on the sidelines last August when the 49ers snapped a five-game preseason losing streak against Denver.

Published references to their shortcomings against their Super Bowl opponent reportedly were tucked to the 49ers' "Alligator board" alongside the inflammatory remarks of Denver Owner Pat Bowlen in San Francisco's closed locker room in Santa Clara last week. But the players aren't in agreement over whether the record will motivate them — or how to explain it.

"Denver for some reason has always had elements and circumstances on their side," tackle Bubba Paris said. "The snowball game in Denver (1985). The wind game in Candlestick (1988). I mean, what's the chances of having a snow flurry and then a wind storm?"

And an Elway, who San Francisco has never beaten in any game. He sat out the Broncos' 35-17 loss in Candlestick on Aug. 19 after his knee brace mysteriously disappeared.

"He can do the unbelievable," 49ers free safety Ronnie Lott said. "I played against him in college. I've played against him in the pros, and he's always been capable of the big plays."

Elway wasn't around for Denver's victories over the 49ers in 1979 (38-28) and (24-21). But he did engineer the 17-16 victory in Denver in 1985 in addition to four preseason victories. Only one was decided by more than a touchdown.

Linebacker Michael Walter has chased after Elway in all of those losses, and he'd like to put an end to a trend he can't easily explain.

"It's a lot of things," the 49ers' leading tackler said. "All the games have been close, so it's not like they've been blowing us out. It's something I don't take a lot of stock in, because when we play a team that we've beaten four or five times in a row, I don't think, 'Oh, we're going to have an easy time of it.'"

Denver had anything but an easy time in the last two games.

On Nov. 11, 1985, Rich Karlis kicked a 24-yard field goal with 1:33 left to play to give the Broncos a 17-16 victory in what the 49ers still know as the "snowball game." The play in question occurred just before halftime when San Francisco holder Matt Cavanaugh was distracted by a snowball and fumbled the snap to doom a 19-yard field goal try.

Elway completed 20-of-42 passes for 215 yards and two touchdowns. Joe Montana's 425 completion percentage in the game (17-of-40) remains the lowest in his career.

Jacobsen ends victory drought

Sheehan holds on to win



Jacobsen sinks a short putt for birdie on the final hole. (Reuters wirephoto)

LAQUINTA, Calif., Jan. 22, (Reuters). Peter Jacobsen snapped a five-year winless streak when he birdied the final hole to win the million-dollar Bob Hope Classic golf tournament yesterday by one stroke over Scott Simpson and Brian Tennyson.

Jacobsen, who led by two shots at the start of the fifth and final round, managed only a one-under-par 71 but it gave him a total of 21-under-par 339 that was good enough to win the \$180,000 first prize.

"I've been playing well for six to eight months, so I felt I was ready to win again," the 35-year-old Jacobsen said.

"It feels great. It feels fabulous. That's what we are out here for — to win."

Simpson, the 1987 US Open champion, had a 68 for his 340 total, while Tennyson fired a blistering 66 for his share of second place. They each earned \$88,000.

Tom Kite and Ted Schulz, who both shot 69s, and Tim Simpson, who posted a 66, tied for fourth at 19-under 341.

Jacobsen had one birdie through the first nine holes but then started the back nine with a bogey-birdie-bogey string.

After five straight pars, he came to the par-five, 540-yard final hole needing a birdie to win. A good drive and a solid three iron shot put him on the right fringe, 30 feet from the cup. He two-putted from there for the victory.

It was the fourth victory of Jacobsen's 13-year career but his first since the 1984 season. He did win the Kapalua International last year, which is an unofficial event.

Jacobsen said that this "probably is my sweetest victory," because of the dry spell without a triumph.

In Montego Bay, Jamaica, Patty Sheehan squandered half of her overnight lead by shooting a 75 but still managed to claim a three-stroke victory in the Jamaican Classic yesterday, the opening event of the LPGA Tour.

Sheehan took a six-shot lead into the final round of the wind-blown tournament and despite going four-over-par on her last tour of the 6,191-yard Tryall Club, finished at one-under 212 — the only player in the 80-player field to break par.

Pat Bradley, who shot a final round 67, Jan Geddes (69) and Lynn Connolly (73) tied for second place at 215.

"It is tough playing with a big lead like that," said Sheehan, who three-putted for a bogey at the 18th hole. "I felt a quart low out there today, my engine wasn't running on full speed."

Jack Nicklaus turned 50 yesterday, saying he plans to win events on both the regular PGA Tour and the Seniors Tour this year.

His competitive fires still burn.

"As you get older, you approach things differently," Nicklaus said. "When you're a teen-ager approaching your 20s, you start trying to figure out the mountains you can climb and how high you can get on them. I still have plenty of mountains I want to climb. I just have to climb them in a different way."

Scott takes Lakers to victory over Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Jan. 22, (AP). Byron Scott scored 12 of his 14 points in a third-quarter run as the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a seven-game losing streak against Detroit Pistons with a 107-97 victory yesterday.

The Lakers entered the game with the best record in the NBA but had lost three straight on the road and eight overall away from home.

The Lakers, trailing by three at halftime, opened the third quarter with a 9-0 run, including five points by Scott, and led by as many as 11 in the period. Scott gave the Lakers their first lead, 55-53, on a 3-pointer with 10:26 left in the quarter, and they never trailed again.

Bulls 117, Knicks 109
Michael Jordan scored 42 points as the Chicago Bulls extended their home winning streak to 15.

The triumph was the third straight for the Bulls and, coupled with Detroit's 107-97 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, put them back into first place in the Central Division. It was the third straight defeat for the Knicks, their longest losing streak of the season.

Jordan scored 15 points in the first 10 minutes of the game and made all 18 of his free throws in the second half.

New York's Patrick Ewing was held to 16 points, 12 below his average.

Ricky Pierce scored 11 hits 22 points in the second quarter as



Celtics' Larry Bird (centre) loses control as he drives between Warriors' Rod Higgins (left) and Chris Mullin. (Reuters wirephoto).

Milwaukee won its fourth straight game.

Bucks 127, Heat 101

The Bucks led 63-41 at halftime after Pierce hit two consecutive 3-pointers during a 21-6 run. Milwaukee expanded the lead to 89-61 late in the third quarter and went on to post its biggest victory margin of the season.

Jay Humphries and Alvin Robertson each scored 19 points for the Bucks. Robertson also had 13 rebounds and 10 assists.

Rony Seikaly led Miami with 26 points. Billy Thompson added 20 and Sherman Douglas 15.

Warriors 120, Celtics 115

Chris Mullin scored 20 of his 30 points in the second half and the



Bulls' Michael Jordan (left) scores a basket in front of Knicks Patrick Ewing. (Reuters wirephoto)

Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 120-115, snapping a 12-year losing streak at

Boston Garden and giving coach Don Nelson his 600th NBA victory. Nelson, who helped the

Celtics to five NBA championships as a player, became the 10th coach in League history to win 600 games. He has a 600-404 record in his 13th season on the bench.

The victory was Golden State's first in 12 games in Boston Garden since Jan. 28, 1978.

Results
L.A. Lakers 107 Detroit 97
Boston 117 New York 109
Milwaukee 127 Miami 115
Golden State 120 Boston 115
Portland 115 Charlotte 100

Standings
Association teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games behind):

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	26	13	.667	—
Boston	23	15	.605	2 1/2
Philadelphia	22	16	.579	3 1/2
Washington	14	25	.359	12
New Jersey	12	27	.308	14
Miami	9	32	.220	18
Central Division				
Chicago	26	13	.667	—
Detroit	26	14	.650	1/2
Milwaukee	23	16	.590	3
Indiana	22	17	.564	4
Atlanta	18	18	.500	6 1/2
Cleveland	16	21	.432	10
Orlando	11	27	.289	14 1/2
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Utah	26	11	.703	—
San Antonio	25	11	.694	1/2
Denver	23	17	.575	4 1/2
Dallas	19	20	.487	8
Houston	18	20	.474	8 1/2
Charlotte	8	29	.216	18
Minnesota	7	30	.189	19
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	28	9	.757	—
Portland	27	11	.711	1-1/2
Phoenix	21	14	.600	6
L.A. Clippers	18	19	.486	10
Seattle	18	19	.486	10
Golden State	17	21	.447	11-1/2
Sacramento	9	27	.250	18-1/2

SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1990

N. Korea refuses to sign accords

SEOUL, Jan 22, (AP) North Korea refused again today to sign a set of guarantees proposed by South Korea at working-level sports talks, dimming prospects for a joint Korean team in this year's Asian Games.

South and North Korean sports officials met at the border town of Panmunjom, but their talks broke down at the start as the communist North rejected repeated calls to sign auxiliary accords binding both sides to implement all agreements on the single team.

The North insists the two sides should discuss and sign such auxiliary accords and arrange other technical details after organising a joint committee for the single team. Sports talks between the two sides began early last year, leading to a rare agreement last December on basic matters such as the team's name, flag, selection and training.

In today's talks, the North also rejected a South Korean proposal for another working-level contact to narrow differences.

The two sides plan full-dress sports talks next Monday, but Seoul officials predicted no progress unless the North makes concessions.

"From the beginning, the North had no intention of forming a single team," said Lim Tae-Soon, a South Korea delegate. He charged that North Korea had planned to use the talks on a joint team to block South Korea's separate participation in the Games.

In asking the North to sign the auxiliary accords, Seoul officials have cited the distrust that has deepened between the two Koreas since the peninsula was divided in 1945. The South fears the North could hold up the agreement at the last moment, causing the South to miss the June 22 entry deadline for the Asian Games in Beijing, in September.

Allen wins triathlon

SANTIAGO, Jan 22, (UPI) US citizen Mark Allen, 33, yesterday won the first international triathlon of Easter Island, located 2,000 miles (3,200km) off the coast of Chile.

Allen won the competition by biking 11 miles (17.7km) on a mountain bike, running 4 miles (6.4km) and swimming 770 yards (707 metres), in one hour, 11 minutes and 28 seconds.

US citizen Harold Robinson took second place with a time of one hour, 14 minutes and five seconds, and Chilean Cristian Bustos came in third.

Last week Allen won the Pucón triathlon, in the south of Chile, and has participated in the past two Ironman competitions in Hawaii, a prolonged triathlon competition.

Julie Moss, also of the United States and Allen's wife, took first place among the women, with compatriot Shannon Delaney in second and Chilean Claudia Cortes in third.

Wilander overcomes Paloheimo

Edberg outplays Svensson

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 22, (Reuters) Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander continued the Swedish takeover of the Australian Open tennis as both advanced into the tournament's last eight today.

Cheered on by Swedish fans in the crowd, third-seeded Edberg beat fellow countryman Jonas Svensson 6-4 6-2 6-2 while eighth seed Wilander profited from an unfortunate injury to his Finnish opponent Veli Paloheimo 7-5 6-4 6-0.

In a repeat of last year, Sweden now have three representatives in the quarterfinals. Mikael Pernfors also advanced yesterday.

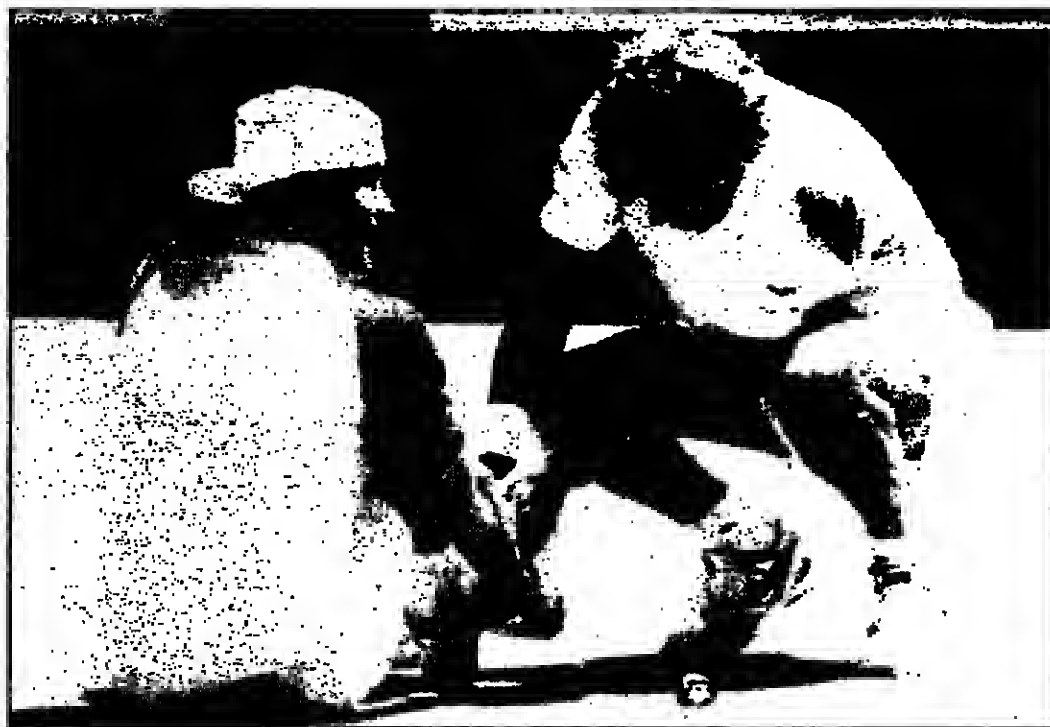
American David Wheaton did his best to break the Swedish stranglehold on the day's headlines, beating compatriot Aaron Krickstein 7-6 6-4 6-3 after the fifth seed suffered a recurrence of an old groin injury in the second set.

The Open nearly lost another big name. Boris Becker barely kept alive his bid for a third straight Grand Slam title when he came back from two sets down against Miloslav Mecir to win 4-6 6-7 (6-8) 6-4 6-1.

Becker reached the quarterfinals for the second time. He was two games away from a straight-sets loss, but came up with aces at key points and gradually overpowered Mecir, last year's runner-up to Ivan Lendl.

The in-form Edberg, chasing his third Australian Open title, continued his impressive march through the draw. He said afterwards he was delighted with his form.

"I thought I played very well right from the beginning," said Edberg, particularly pleased with his volleying which left his opponent gasping in admiration. "He was just too good," said Svensson. "I think he's shown



Wilander (right) applies ice to Paloheimo's ankle. (Reuters wirephoto)

everyone he's right up there with Lendl and Becker. The way he played today, he will be very difficult to beat."

Asked if he thought Edberg was a likely winner of the tournament, Svensson joked. "If he played me in the quarterfinals, the semifinals and the final, he'd definitely win."

Wilander, a three-time winner of the event, said he felt he was hitting the ball better than at any time since 1988, but admitted that Paloheimo's injury had changed the course of the match. After narrowly conceding the first set 7-5, the enthusiastic Finn, who has aroused huge interest in his native land during

his progress to the last 16, became the fourth player in four days to twist an ankle on the rebound ace courts.

Unlike Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and Australian Mark Woodforde, who both left the court in wheelchairs after their third round matches on Saturday, Paloheimo bravely played on but could offer only token resistance as Wilander coasted home.

"After that it was over," admitted the Finn later, refusing to blame the court for his injury. "I realised pretty soon that there was no way he could have come back," said world number 14 Wilander. He added that his

practice partner David Engel had also twisted an ankle in the morning "but he stepped on a ball."

Krickstein also said that bad luck rather than the surface was to blame for his injury which effectively decided his match with the 20-year-old Wheaton, the only American now left in the draw.

"I was kind of lucky to finish. There was no way I could have played on after the third set, win or lose," said Krickstein.

Wheaton, who is from Minneapolis, now faces the tough prospect of playing Edberg but has already achieved a personal goal.

"One of my goals at the end of last year was to get to the quarters of a Grand Slam this year, so to do it in the first one is great," he said.

Becker, the Wimbledon and US singles champion, has flown his personal doctor from West Germany for a check up as he moves into the final rounds the \$3 million Australian Open.

The doctor arrived late today, only hours before Becker was to play mercurial Czechoslovakian Miloslav Mecir in a quarterfinal. Becker has not been playing well.

He has a wracking nervous cough and has been well below his powerful best in the early rounds of the Open.

Yannick Noah was named today to head the French team for the Davis Cup first round tennis tie against Australia in Perth early next month. Henri Leconte, Guy Forget and Jean Flauriau have also been selected for the tie which will be played on grass from February 2-4.

The French team have decided to remain in Melbourne, venue for the Australian Open, this week to practice on the grass courts at Kooyong, the former site of the Open.

Results
Fourth round results on the eighth day of the Australian Open tennis championships today (prefix number denotes seeding):

3-Stefan Edberg (Sweden) beat Jonas Svensson (Sweden) 6-2 6-2 6-4; David Wheaton (US) beat Aaron Krickstein (US) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 6-3; 8-Mats Wilander (Sweden) beat Veli Paloheimo (Finland) 7-5 6-4 6-0; 2-Boris Becker (West Germany) beat 16-Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia) 4-6 6-7 (6-8) 6-4 6-1 6-1.



American John McEnroe shows his frustration during his Sunday's match against Mikael Pernfors. McEnroe was defaulted by the umpire. (Reuters wirephoto)



Boris Becker raises his arms in jubilation after beating Mecir. (Reuters wirephoto)

Newcombe criticizes McEnroe

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 22, (UPI) The disqualification of fiery John McEnroe for abusive behaviour in the Australian Open was strongly supported in Australian tennis circles today.

Former Australian champion, John Newcombe, said McEnroe's disqualification "should have happened 10 years ago."

Writing in the Sydney Daily Telegraph, Newcombe, a three-time Wimbledon champion, said: "Everyone, including McEnroe, would have been better off. The reality of being able to hit a tennis ball in the artistic manner of McEnroe is not a license to behave in such fashion that it's insulting to other people."

And Newcombe warned: "Now that officials have made their stand the second time is always easier than the first."

Tennis writers in Australian newspapers and on radio and television also agreed that McEnroe had gone too far and that officials had no other alternative but to disqualify him.

Outlaw
"It took 12 turbulent years for the long arm of the law to lasso tennis outlaw John McEnroe," said the Sydney Daily Mirror's Tim Prentice today.

"A posse of three rounded up the sporting world's most notorious baddie and literally ran him out of town," Prentice said. "The dithering officialdom of international tennis took more than a decade to close the foulest mouth in the West."

Officials yesterday gave McEnroe a match default penalty and fined him \$5,500 for three breaches of the players' code of ethics.

McEnroe was first penalised a point for racket abuse when leading Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 2-4 in their fourth round match at the National Tennis Centre, Melbourne yesterday.

The first came after a delightful one-two with Andy Townsend and the second followed a slip by United goalkeeper Jim Leighton.

The defeat left United, still missing injured England captain Bryan Robson, without a League win in 10 games — and third from the bottom.

Scottish FA Cup holders Celtic will face their great rivals Rangers next month in a repeat of last season's final.

The two Glasgow clubs were drawn together yesterday in the fourth round on February 24. It will be the first time they have met in any round apart from the final for 20 years.

Rangers and Celtic have not met in any Cup event outside of a final since 1978-79 when Rangers won a League Cup semifinal after extra time.

Celtic manager Billy McNeill said of the draw: "This game will be like a Cup final in itself. At least we have home advantage."

Draw
Ayr United or St Mirren v Clydebank, Cowdenbeat v Dunfermline or Hamilton, Dundee or Dundee United v Queen of the South or Alloa, Aberdeen v Morton or Raith, Celtic v Rangers, East Stirling or Stirling Albion v Airdrie or Inverness Caledonian, Hearts v Motherwell, Hibernian v East Fife.

Ties to be played February 24.

David and Norma take top spot

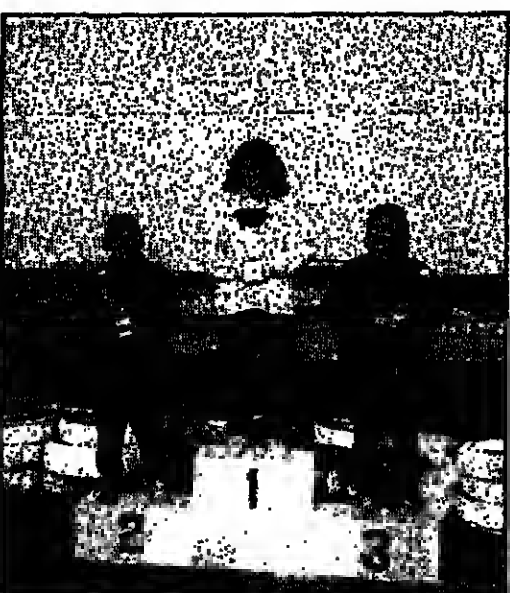
DAVID and Norma Haines (Halliburton) each took first place in the mens' and ladies' kart meeting on Friday at the Ahmadi Kart Track. Repeating the earlier success of the Frieseneggers (Mabel Habib Commercial Est.) last year, both David and Norma have improved their driving standards to show everybody else the way home.

Lloyd took a distant second place in the mens' KNDC with Friesenegger in third and Bollig fourth. The second placed lady was Bernadette Friesenegger and third, for the second time, was Christine Shaban.

David Haines won all but one of the day's races in a commanding display of driving skills. It was difficult to see how anyone was going to stop the Haines run of success, as more than once he came from the back of the pack to take, and hold, a comfortable lead.

Peter Friesenegger's run of bad luck continued as he managed to finish only two out of the day's five races due to engine siezes and a punctured tyre. Mike Snell put his relatively poor showing down to deteriorating tyres and problems with starting his kart.

Lloyd eventually managed to break the Haines grip in the fourth heat taking a comfortable first place after Haines missed a turn at the end of the straight. Haines took second place, in a race to the line finish, after a very good showing by Peter Wakely;



Winners of the ladies' race (left) and men's KNDC race on Friday.

who lost by a front wheel despite some active encouragement from the stands.

With a lot of the new drivers joining the pack there was plenty of manoeuvring for position by the faster drivers as they tried to move up the placings. This made it one of those days when protests are thrown like rice at a wedding but the only objection upheld by the level-headed Clerk of the Course, John Ogilvie, was against Mike Snell who sent Ray Washer

spinning after a clash of wheels.

Eleven men signed on for the day's racing which was complemented by a turn out of one ladies for their championship.

There was a lot less spinning out in the ladies race with Norma Haines keeping her cool and leading the race from start to finish having opened a clear lead. Bernadette Friesenegger was challenged once or twice by Christine Shaban for second place who was unable to capitalise on overtaking

situations that presented themselves.

Fourth place was taken by Sandra Gardiner and fifth place went to Karen Sannan. Tracy Media drove to sixth place whilst seventh placed Linda Gardiner caused some excitement as she left the track at high speed in a cloud of dust, but like all the ladies who spun she was soon back on the track chasing after the leaders.

The next race at the Ahmadi Kart track in on February 2.

Barcelona cut Real's lead to five points

MADRID, Jan 22, (Reuters) Barcelona scored a scrappy 1-0 win over Real Valladolid yesterday to cut Real Madrid's lead in the Spanish League to five points.

Taking advantage of draws by all their main rivals, Barcelona moved into second place, a point clear of Atletico Madrid and two ahead of Valencia.

The Catalans scored the weekend's only home win yesterday but looked disorganised without midfielder Luis Milla, suspended for one game. Jose Bakero scored in the 62nd minute in one of Barcelona's few attacks.

Atletico Madrid, deprived of suspended Portuguese striker Paulo Futre, drew 1-1 at home against Valencia and missed their chance to keep up with Barcelona.

Atletico's Brazilian striker Baltazar de Moraes missed his second penalty in as many games in the fourth minute but made up for it by setting up Roberto Marina to slam home Atletico's only goal in the 63rd minute.

Valencia equalised 11 minutes later with a header from Eloy Olaya.

Lacklustre Real were held to a 1-1 draw in Gijon on Saturday, Hugo Sanchez heading in with just five minutes to go to save the club from defeat.

Amsterdam, Dutch First



Valencia's Fernando Gomez (left) battles for the ball against Atletico's Roberto Marina. (Reuters wirephoto)

returned from the winter break looking anything but prospective champions as they scrambled to a 1-1 draw away to BSV Den Bosch, second from bottom of the table.

Second-placed Roda took

advantage of PSV's indifferent form with a 2-0 win over FC Twente which cut the leaders' advantage to just one point.

PSV, chasing a record fifth consecutive title, fell behind to a Cees van der Linden goal.

Defender Addick Koot spared PSV's blushes with a second half equaliser.

The League leaders could have snatched a fortunate win had Romario not missed from close range late in the game.

In Lisbon, a deflection kept Porto on top of the Portuguese Soccer League as the season reached the half-way mark yesterday.

A shot from Rui Aguas ricocheted off a defender, wrong-footing the goalkeeper, to give the Oporto club a useful 1-0 away victory at lowly Beira Mar.

Guimaraes, the surprise of the season so far, kept one point behind with a 2-0 win over Portimonense. The goals were scored by Brazilian imports Joao Batista and Caio Junior, who came on as substitutes in the second half.

Lisbon clubs Benfica and Sporting both stumbled. Defending champions Benfica dropped a place to third with a goalless draw in their local clash against Belenenses.

Norwich City beat troubled Manchester United 2-0 in the English Soccer League yesterday, turning the screw again on beleaguered United manager Alex Ferguson.

Robert Fleck capped a strong attacking display from Norwich with goals in the 70th and 85th minutes.

Brazil defeat Italy

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 22, (AP) Brazil beat Italy 2-1 and Poland got by Holland 4-2 yesterday in the Masters Cup tournament of former soccer greats held in South America's largest city.

The results, which closed out first round play, set up a Wednesday showdown for the championship between Brazil, which finished first in round-robin play, and runner-up Holland. Argentina and Italy will meet to decide third place.

Brazil and Italy, the only-three time World Cup champions, played on a rain-soaked field, with ex-stars showing they are still capable of top-quality soccer.

Brazil got the better of first half action, and only excellent play by goalie Coparini prevented the home team from running up a big advantage.

The lone goal came with just 3 minutes left in the period, when Claudio Adao scored a picture-

perfect goal, taking the last of four passes and tapping the ball into the Italian net.

Meanwhile, Brazil played solid defense and goalie Paulo Sergio had little work.

Brazil upped its lead to 2-0 two minutes into the second half, when Serginho slipped past the defense and blasted a shot past Coparini.

Italy closed the scoring on an arcing shot by Casuso, which snuck by Paulo Sergio into the left hand corner.

Brazil finished first round play with a record of three wins and a draw, to take first place with seven points. Italy finished fourth with a record of one win, two losses and a tie, for three points.

Final standings (first round):

	W	L	T	Pts
Brazil	3	0	1	5
Holland	2	2	1	4
Argentina	1	2	1	3
Italy	1	2	1	3
Poland	1	2	1	3



Brazilian soccer star Jose Roberto Gama (left), known as 'Bebeto', receives the Latin America's Best Player award from Eduardo Rocca Couture, a representative of Fifa, on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistan stage magnificent recovery

Imran, Wasim blast tons

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 22. (Reuters): Centuries by Imran Khan and Wasim Akram, his first in Test cricket, inspired a magnificent recovery which put Pakistan back in contention in the second Test against Australia today.

Imran hit his highest Test score of 136 and Wasim lashed 123 as they turned the match around with a record sixth wicket stand of 191 on the fourth day.

Pakistan's second innings had crumbled to 90 for five — a mere six runs ahead — when captain

Imran and fellow all-rounder Wasim staged their rescue act that lifted the score to 357 for seven at the close.

The touring team, 1-0 down in the three-match series after losing the first Test by 92 runs, will start the final day tomorrow with a lead of 273 and three wickets left.

Imran batted for eight hours, beating his previous highest Test score of 135 not out in the first Test of the 1987 series against India in Madras.

Wasim, who reached his hun-

dred off 169 deliveries, hatted altogether for 244 minutes and faced 195 balls, hitting 18 fours and a six.

The pair beat Pakistan's previous sixth wicket record partnership in Tests against Australia — 115 by Asif Iqbal and Javed Miandad at Sydney in the 1976-77 series.

When Pakistan, 84 behind on first innings, resumed in the morning at 73 for four they seemed to be heading for defeat after quickly losing Miandad for 21.

With the total 90 he was

caught by Peter Taylor in the gully off paceman Merv Hughes, who at that stage had taken all the wickets, his fifth five-wicket haul in his 22nd Test.

However, that was Australia's last success until the final session as Imran and Wasim hauled Pakistan out of their crisis, guiding the team to 144 for five at lunch and 233 for five at tea.

Imran, who reached his first Test century against Australia just before tea, escaped on 99 when he edged a ball from pace-

hower Carl Rackemann to Mark Taylor at first slip where the fieldman, who had not dropped a catch this summer, got both hands to the ball but spilled the chance.

The sixth wicket stand ended when Wasim was bowled by paceman Greg Campbell with the total 281.

Imran, having arrived at the crease with his side seven for three wickets, was finally out at 316, bowled by Peter Taylor trying to loft the spinner over mid-wicket.

Salim Malik, who made an unbeaten 46 despite batting with a broken thumb, and Tauseef Ahmed continued the Pakistan recovery with an unbroken eighth wicket partnership of 41.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 52, Wasim Akram 52, Carl Rackemann 40 for 40)

AUSTRALIA first innings 341 (D. Jones 116, M. Taylor 77, Wasim Akram five for 100)

PAKISTAN second innings (over-night 73 for four)

Shoaib Mohammad c Healy b Hughes 0

Rameez Raja c Waugh b Hughes 2

Salim Yousuf c M. Taylor b Hughes 4

Ejaz Ahmed c P. Taylor b Hughes 4

Imran Khan b P. Taylor 136

Javed Miandad c P. Taylor b Hughes 21

Wasim Akram b Campbell 123

Salim Malik not out 46

Tauseef Ahmed not out 11

Extras (b-4 lb-5 w-1 nb-3) 13

Total (seven wickets) 357

Fall of wickets: 1-0-2-3-7-4-22-5-90

6-281 7-316

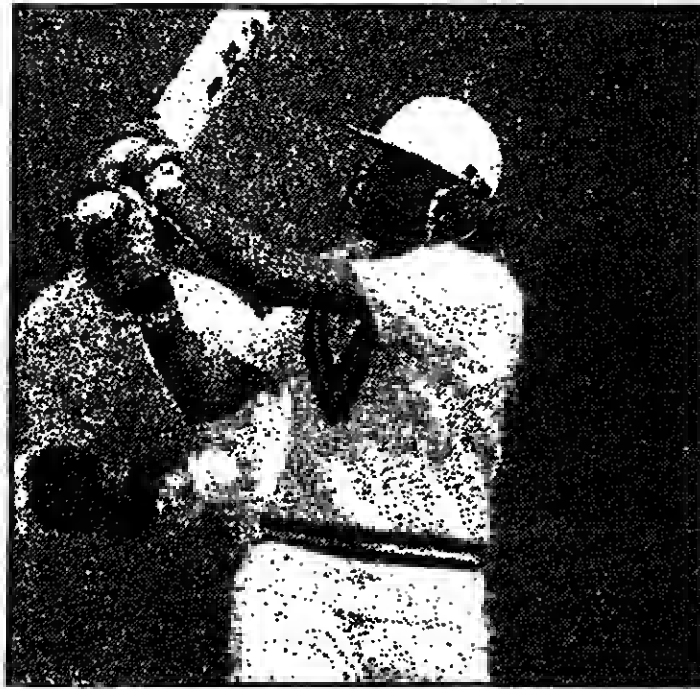
Bowling (10 overs): Hughes 22-90

11-5 (w-1 nb-2), Campbell 29-83

1, Rackemann 32-11-72-0 (nb-1), P. Taylor 36-13-77-1, Border 4-0-5-0.



Imran (left) and Wasim put Pakistan back in the second Test.



Imran acclaims Wasim Akram

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 22. (Reuters): Imran Khan acclaimed his fellow century-maker Wasim Akram after they had staged a stunning Pakistan fightback in the second cricket Test against Australia today.

Imran, who hit his best Test score of 136, said he felt he was standing still by comparison with Wasim, whose 123 was his maiden Test hundred.

The sixth-wicket pair hauled Pakistan's second innings from 90 for five to 357 for seven — 273 ahead — at the close of the fourth day.

"He made me feel like some laborious blocker because he was just so fluent," captain Imran said of his fellow all-rounder's batting. "The innings he played, some of the drives, I think Gary Sobers would have been proud of them."

"Three years ago when we came for the Perth Challenge (one-day) tournament, I remember saying that Wasim would be a better version of Richard Hadlee and I remember there were a lot of laughs."

Imran said of his own innings: "It gave me more satisfaction than any other because we were really struggling. It gives a chance to be back in the series."

Azharuddin slams 159 in opener

Chandrasekhar, Manjrekar hit half centuries

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 22. (Reuters): Mohammad Azharuddin launched his captaincy of India's cricket team with a classic innings of 159 in the four-day opening tour match against the New Zealand President's XI today.

Azharuddin, using a wide repertoire of strokes as he struck 26 fours and one six, spurred India to 431 for six at the close of the first day.

Supported by opener Vijay Chandrasekhar with 92 and Sanjay Manjrekar, who scored 80, Azharuddin made his runs from only 187 deliveries in an ideal start to his new role after replacing Krishnamachari Srikkanth.

Azharuddin, who was out in the penultimate over of the day, often left the fieldmen flat-footed with the power and timing of his strokes.

India were given a solid base by Chandrasekhar and Navjot Sidhu, who put on 77 for the first wicket before Sidhu cut a rising delivery from Shane Thomson and was caught by David White

Manjrekar, dropped on four by Grant Bradburn at first slip, made the most of his escape by adding 73 with Chandrasekhar for the second wicket and 118 with Azharuddin for the third.

After Manjrekar's dismissal, Azharuddin held the middle order together before Kapil Dev enlivened the closing stages with three quick fours as he struck a rapid 25 not out.

at point.



Azharuddin

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings

V. Chandrasekhar c Thomson 92

N. Sidhu c White b Thomson 23

S. Manjrekar c Parore b Thomson 80

M. Azharuddin c Bradburn 159

M. Thomson 1

S. Tendulkar c Richardson 13

B. Milind 13

M. Prabhakar c Douglas 24

B. Milind 25

Kapil Dev not out 1

K. Mora not out 1

Extras (b-4 lb-7 nb-3) 14

Total (six wickets) 431

Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-150, 3-288, 4-298, 5-394, 6-430.

To bat: V. Razdan, N. Hirani, V. Raju.

Bowling (10 overs): Milind 18-90

2, Thomson 24-5-84-3, Rutherford 3-0-29-0, Snedden 12-2-46-0, Larsen 19-6-53-1, Richardson 11-0-45-0, Bradburn 13-1-73-0.

President's XI: S. Thomson, K. Rutherford, G. Bradburn, G. Larsen, A. Parore, M. Richardson, J. Milind, D. White, M. Douglas, M. Snedden, K. Wealleens.

Muscat hosed their game around a strong rucking pack, and they certainly had the better of Kuwait in the second phase.

Kuwait did well in the scrums, but their line out half was extremely scrappy. Scrum half Mark Shipley was forced to perform heroics behind this and did well to withstand the physical huffing he received.

The first score of the game came for the Muscat left wing Nigel Townsend when Kuwait full back Richard Ellis misjudged his tackle and saw his opponent slip past. In attack Ellis looked the most dangerous of the Kuwait players. From his break Boh Mason came close for Kuwait but was hauled down inches from the line.

Muscat extended their lead in the second half when well won ruck ball saw scrum half Steve Bale break blind and put Nigel Townsend over in the corner for his second score of the game.

Kuwait drove at the Muscat

THIS weekend saw Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads travel to Muscat to play a League and cup double-header. The depleted team experienced the joys of Gulf rugby with the journey taking a mere ten hours! Their mood was to worsen by the end of the game. The match was billed as a Gulf Cup quarter-final.

This showed itself in the commitment and aggression which was very obvious during the entire encounter. Unfortunately an undercurrent of ill-feeling permeated the game and more than once this exploded into a flurry of fists. The referee appeared to be unaware of such occasions!

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forwards and some fine runs by Winfield and Sole put the defence under pressure, but Muscat's tackling was very strong. Unfortunately Kuwait lost lock Bill Buttery in the second half when he crashed his head into a freezer placed stupidly too close to the pitch.

He remains in a Muscat hospital but should be back in Kuwait at the end of the week.

Muscat's final score came when Kuwait were caught napping at a penalty situation. Steve Bale fed Driver who put Nigel Townsend in for his hat trick.

Thus Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads Cup hopes have ended for this season. Skipper Hill praised his players for their physical commitment but conceded the better team had won on the day. Kuwait still have a number of vital home league matches and will have a strong say in where the League Championships ends up this year.

Association said they were advised by Egypt of the team that was coming but were not certain how many national players, if any, were included.

The Soviets are one of the favourites for the World Cup finals which begins June 9 in Italy.

Egypt and the UAE will be two Arab countries at the finals, soccer's most prestigious event. But Egypt is flying the African flag and the UAE is flying Asia's.

The UAE, taking part for the first time in the elite 24-nation World Cup finals, is drawn with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia in Group D of the tournament. Egypt is drawn with England, Ireland and the Netherlands in Group F.

Each team will play twice with the UAE.

Officials of the UAE Football

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The victorious Evergreen squad with their officials.

Evergreen take crown

Iqbal Jr hammers 195

EVERGREEN Cricketers thrashed Lanka Lions by 87 runs in the final of the Patron's Trophy cricket tournament to take the title at the EPI ground on Friday.

Perusinghe won the toss and invited Evergreen to bat. Iqbal Jr and Razak opened the innings and put on 59 runs before the latter gave a return catch to Miraj after scoring 18 runs. Iqbal Jr was joined by Qayyum Majed, who played second fiddle to his more established partner in their 105-run partnership.

Qayyum was run-out after contributing 22 runs. After 26 overs, when water interval was observed, Evergreen were well-placed at 165 for two.

After the break Anjum Raza tore apart the bowling which lacked any hite and virtually raced towards 64 runs. His knock contained four towering sixes and three ruthlessly cracked boundaries. At the other end Iqbal Jr kept punishing all the bowlers at will and he became more bold after reaching his century. This was his second century against Lanka Lions in four weeks' time.

When Anjum Raza was caught, Iqbal Jr again took the driver's seat. He was finally run-out in last and 45th over when he fell while going for second run and was unlucky to miss double



Iqbal Jr hit 195

century by just five runs. His 195, which is second best in Kuwait's cricket after Aslam Pervaiz's 224, contained a six, and 18 boundaries. Evergreen piled up a huge total of 334 runs after losing five wickets, of which one each went to Miraj, Donald and Chula.

Requiring 7.44 per over Lanka Lions were never in the race and were plied down by Arshed Pindival and Sadaqat. With total only 27, Evergreen's skipper Asad Baig held a marvellous catch off Arshed Pindival to dismiss Naman. Arshed Pindival again struck by shattering the stumps of Miraj. When Ranil was run-out after scoring 23 runs, the total was only 20, overs and the target always appeared beyond Lanka Lions' reach. Asad Baig decided to use his part-time bowlers which helped batsmen to increase the run-rate but still kept them well below the required rate.

Donald played well and hit 101 runs including a six and eight boundaries. When the allotted 45 overs were completed, Lanka Lions had reached 247 runs after losing seven wickets.

Ray remained unbeaten on 58. Suhail Asad, Anjum Raza and Arshed Pindival got two wickets each. Iqbal Jr was voted "Man of the Match".

GCL secretary Sajid Raza announced that the prize distribution ceremony would be held at a later date as the sponsors of the trophy, Mohan Kumar Merwah and Parwez Kumar Merwah of Mohan Commercials were out of station. The match was supervised by Haji Sarfraz and Tehzib Ul Hassan.

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One killed in Monte Carlo crash

MONTE CARLO, Jan 22. (Reuters): One competitor was killed and another seriously injured when a car plunged off the road into a ravine during the second stage of the Monte Carlo rally today, organisers said.

They said the car was a privately entered Renault driven by Frenchman Jean-Claude Bertaudiere, who was severely injured. His co-driver Francis Malaussene was killed outright.

The car left the road on a sharp bend and dropped 200 metres into a ravine on the first of the

day's six special timed sections. The last fatal accident in the rally occurred last year when two Swedish spectators were killed after Italian Alessandro Fiorio's Lancia left the road.

Organisers said later that Bertaudiere was flown by helicopter to a Montpellier hospital where he was in critical condition.

Malaussene's death was the first in a major rally since Portuguese driver Augusto Mendes died when his Opel Kadett plunged into a ravine in the Portuguese rally last March.

The crash happened on the first of the day's six special timed sections in an accident black spot area between the Ray-Pic waterfall and the village of Perevres in the Ardeche region.

In a fatal day for the Monte Carlo rally, the second special timed section was cancelled after a delay caused by a spectator falling off a rock onto the course before the cars had passed.

The spectator was seriously injured and the race was held up while an ambulance took him to hospital. That incident hap-

pened in the same area as last year's fatal accident.

The rally continued with the third special stage.

Yesterday Juha Kankkunen, twice a winner of the rally and one of the favourites for this year's race, was forced to pull out after leaving the road in the first stage.

Organisers said the Finnish driver's Lancia went off the road during the fifth of the day's six special timed sections and he had to give up.

Kankkunen won the 1986 and 1987 Monte Carlo rallies before leaving the Italian stable for Toyota for two years. He rejoined Lancia this season.

Standings

Leading standings today after nine special timed sections of the Monte Carlo Rally:

1. Equal: Didier Auriol (France) Lancia two hours zero minutes seven seconds. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota same time.

3. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia 15 seconds behind

4. Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia 1:15

5. Dario Cerrato (Italy) Lancia 1:59

6. Armin Schwartz (West Germany) Toyota 4:08

7. Timo Salonen (Finland) Mazda 4:14

8. Hannu Mikkola (Finland) Mazda 4:56

9. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi 5:13

10. Francois Delecour (France) Peugeot 6:03

Anti-apartheid leader gets death threat

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 22. (Reuters): An anti-apartheid leader said yesterday he had received a telephoned death threat from the president of the South African Cricket Union (SACU) over a rebel tour by English cricketers.

Krish Naidoo, general secretary of the National Sports Congress (NSC), said Geoff Dakin told him his life would be in danger if anything happened to any of the English players, here on a seven-week tour in defiance of an international sports boycott of South Africa.

Sacu managing director Ali Bacher said Dakin had described the allegation as "ridiculous" and denied telephoning Naidoo. Dakin himself could not immediately be reached for comment.